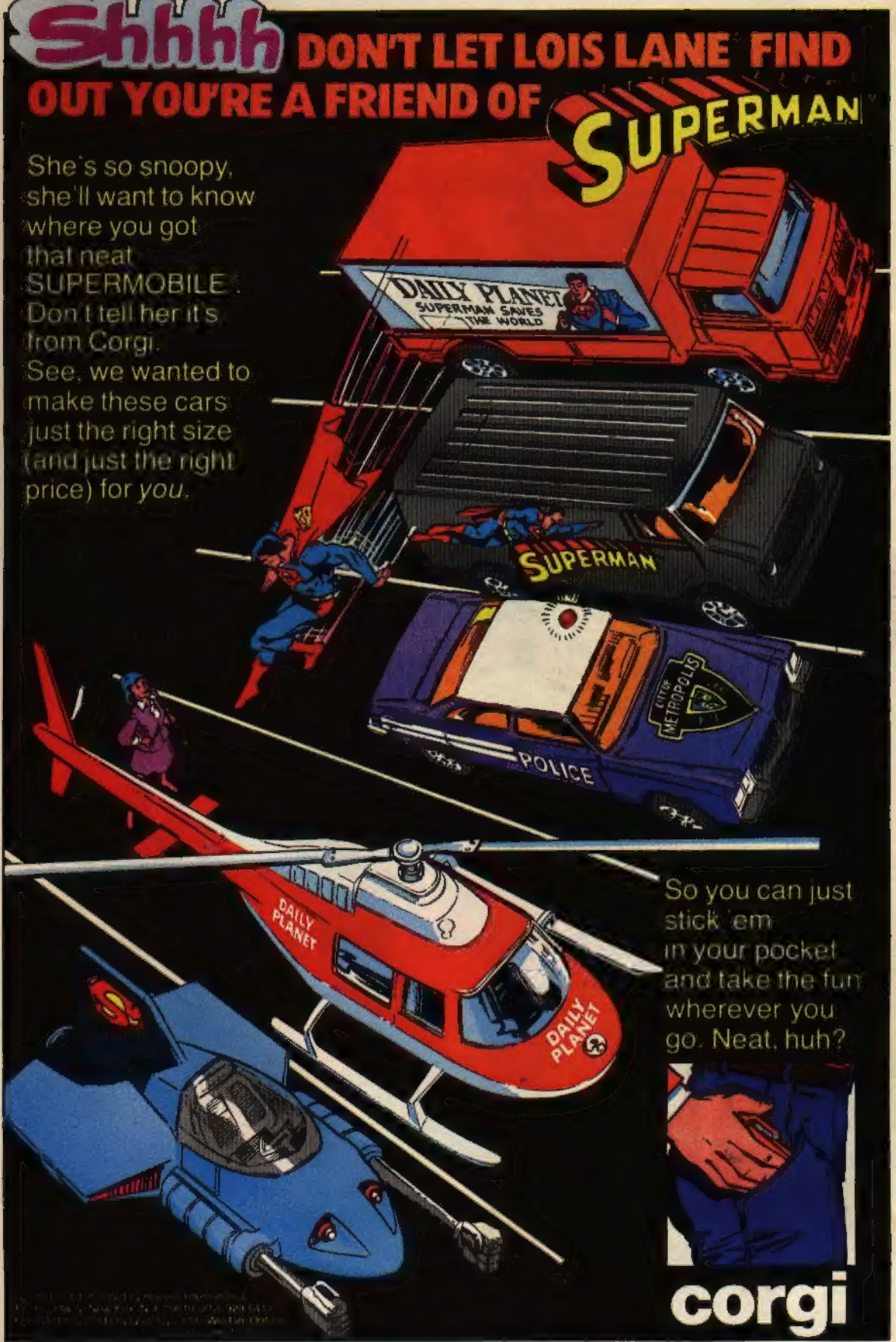
IS THE MAN OF STEEL MIGHTY ENOUGH TO SAVE LANA LANG FROM GOING OVER THE RAINBOW?
40¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 503
JAN.
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
PULL HARDER, SUPERMAN!-- OR I'LL BE KIDNAPPED RIGHT OUT OF THIS WORLD!
5-3248
ANDRU & GIORDANO

Shhhh DON'T LET LOIS LANE FIND OUT YOU'RE A FRIEND OF SUPERMAN

She's so snoopy, she'll want to know where you got that neat SUPERMOBILE. Don't tell her it's from Corgi. See, we wanted to make these cars just the right size (and just the right price) for *you*.



So you can just stick 'em in your pocket and take the fun wherever you go. Neat, huh?

corgi

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED TV NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

IN BETWEEN WHAT WAS...WHAT IS...AND WHAT WILL BE...LIES THE INTANGIBLE RIBBON OF ETHEREAL FORCE AND ENERGY THAT MAKE UP THE TIME STREAM...

INTANGIBLE IN RELATION TO THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE, PERHAPS--BUT UNYIELDING IN ITS INEXORTABLE FORWARD FLOW...

NO POWER IMAGINABLE--NOT EVEN THE MIGHTY SUPERMAN--CAN ALTER THE COURSE OF THE TIME STREAM...

BUT WHAT IF THERE WAS...IS...OR WILL BE--

--A POWER SO DEVASTATING IT IS...UNIMAGINABLE?

4 A.M. OVER METROPOLIS--THE MAN OF STEEL SOARS ACROSS THE CITY HE HAS PLEDGED TO PROTECT...

JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO WRAP UP ANOTHER UNEVENTFUL NIGHT PATROL... THINGS START POPPING!

AN OBJECTS SUDDENLY BURSTING INTO VIEW--WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT!

BEAUTIFUL, SUPERMAN--and DANGEROUS!

"A SAVE IN TIME!"

WRITER: CARY BATES
LETTERER: MILT SNAPINN
PENCILLER: CURT SWAN
COLORIST: GENE D'ANGELO
INKER: FRANK CHIARAMONTE
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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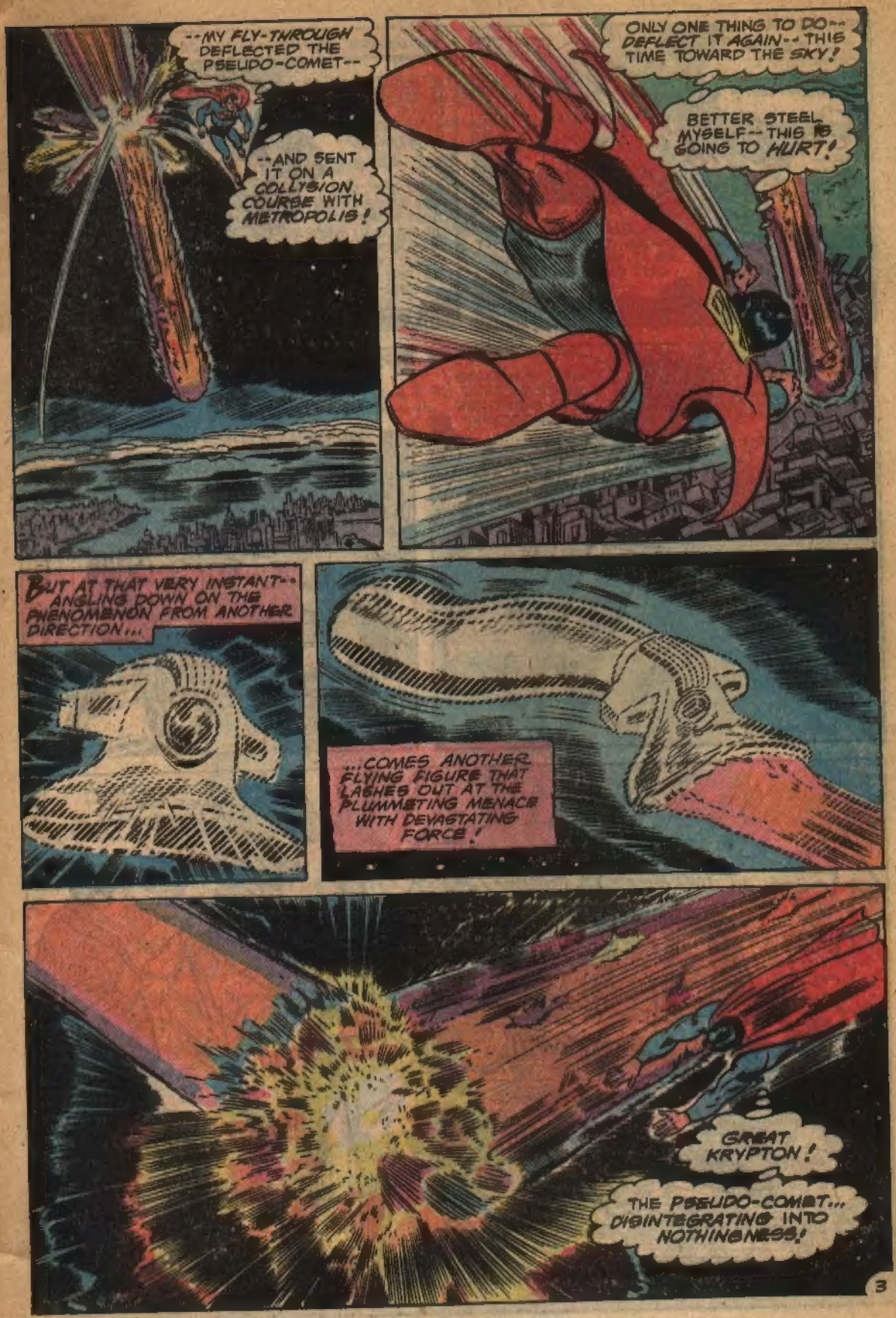
OUTWARDLY, IT LOOKS LIKE A COMET... BUT INWARDLY, IT'S SOMETHING ELSE!
SOMETHING SO ALIEN, I CAN'T IDENTIFY WHAT KIND OF MATTER IT'S COMPOSED OF!
WHAT'S MORE BAFFLING--ITS MYSTERIOUS MASS IS SO INCREDIBLY DENSE NOT EVEN MY X-RAY VISION CAN PENETRATE IT!
BUT IF I CAN'T EXAMINE THE CORE FROM THE OUTSIDE, LOOKING IN...
...THEN I'LL CONDUCT MY PROBE FROM INSIDE, LOOKING OUT!
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT'S KNOWN AS MAKING SOME REAL HEADWAY!
BUT WHEN THE HEADLONG PLUNGE CARRIES THE MAN OF STEEL CLEAR THROUGH THE COMET-LIKE OBJECT...
ARRRRGGH
FEELS LIKE I'VE JUST BEEN THROUGH A MASSIVE SHOCK TREATMENT... MY BODY WRACKED WITH A MILLION PINPOINTS OF THROBBING PAIN!
THERE GOES ANOTHER SHATTERING BLOW TO MY "INVULNERABILITY"!
NO TIME TO PUZZLE OVER THIS NOW, THOUGH--


--MY FLY-THROUGH DEFLECTED THE PSEUDO-COMET--
--AND SENT IT ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH METROPOLIS!
ONLY ONE THING TO DO-- DEFLECT IT AGAIN-- THIS TIME TOWARD THE SKY!
BETTER STEEL MYSELF-- THIS IS GOING TO HURT!
BUT AT THAT VERY INSTANT-- ANGLING DOWN ON THE PHENOMENON FROM ANOTHER DIRECTION...
...COMES ANOTHER FLYING FIGURE THAT LASHES OUT AT THE PLUMMETING MENACE WITH DEVASTATING FORCE!
GREAT KRYPTON!
THE PSEUDO-COMET... DISINTEGRATING INTO NOTHINGNESS!

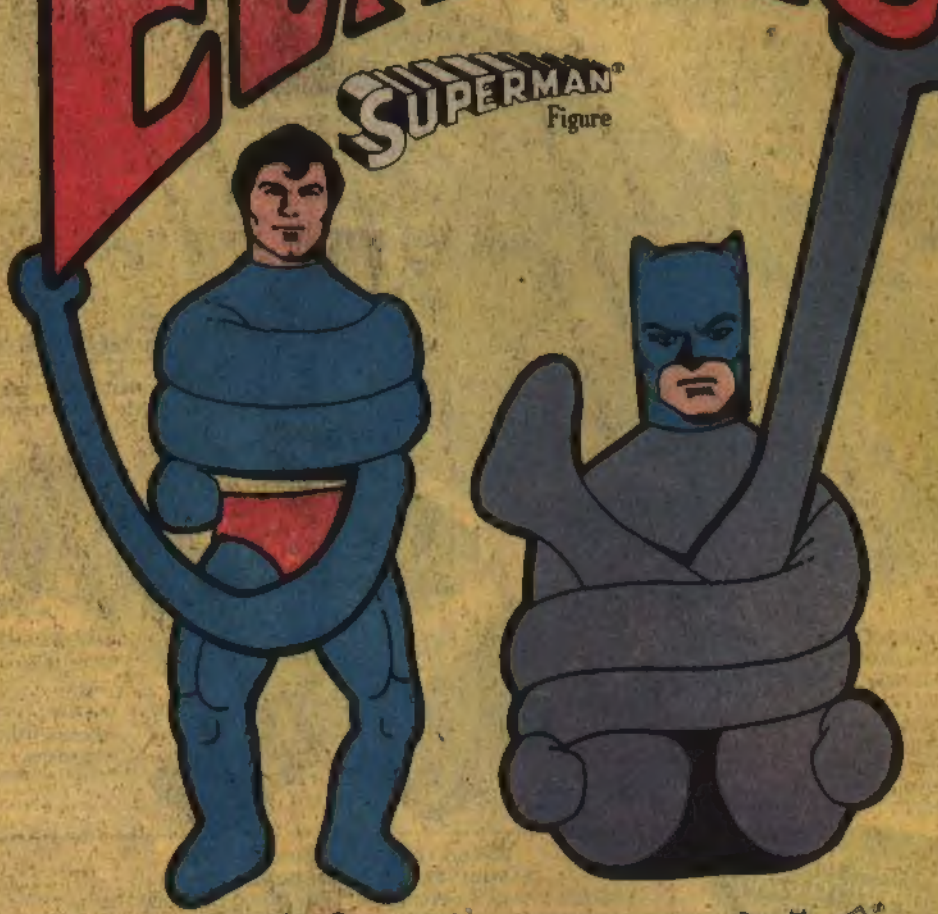
CAN'T STOP SHORT... TOO MUCH FORWARD MOMENTUM!
EH-- WHAT WAS THAT--?
CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF AN OBJECT-- JUST AS IT WAS BLINKING OUT OF SIGHT!
BUT BEFORE THE ACTION ACE CAN INVESTIGATE...
I MUST REMIND MYSELF NEVER TO GRIPE ABOUT UNEVENTFUL PATROLS!
ANOTHER JOB FOR SUPERMAN JUST POPPED UP BELOW! THIS SHOULD BE A SNAP COMPARED TO THE LAST ONE--!
SCREEECH!
WATCH OUT! YOU'RE GONNA HIT THAT JAYWALKER!
TOUGH BANANAS! I AIN'T SLOWIN' UP OUR GETAWAY FOR NOBODY!
--NOT EVEN FOR SUPERMAN?
EVENING, SIR!
I REALIZE IT'S QUITE LATE AND YOU'RE PROBABLY IN A HURRY TO GET HOME--
S-T-A-R-S
UHHHH!
EGHHH!
KRRAASSHHHHH
--BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT JAYWALKING IS AGAINST THE LAW!

CONTINUED ON 5 EP PAGE FOLLOWING

MEGO™ INTRODUCES

ELASTIC

SUPERMAN® Figure



BATMAN® Figure

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Pat. Pend.

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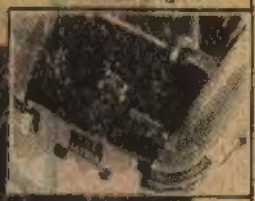
Made of tough, durable, DIE-CAST METAL

Hand-crafted in Italy!

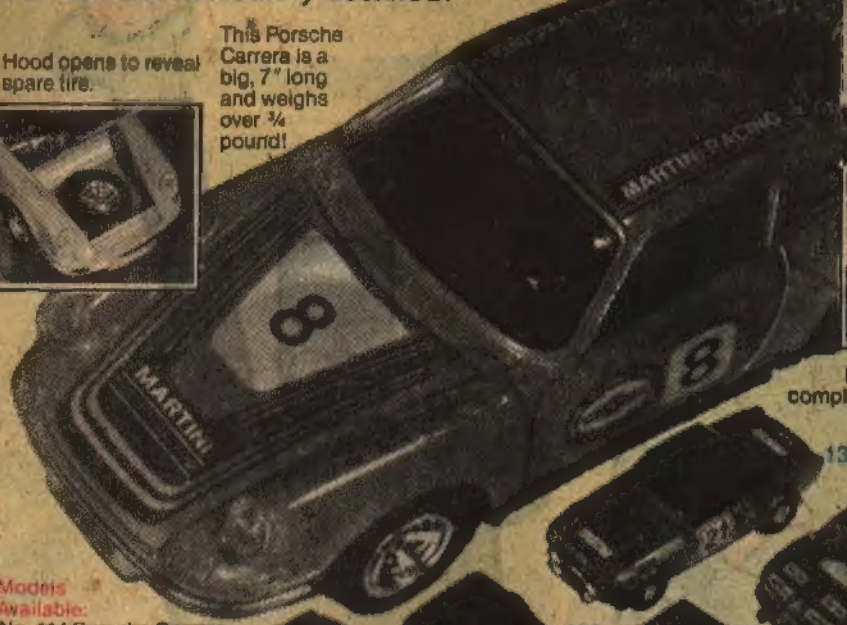
Accurately scaled models are a full handful of fun—just 24 times smaller than the real car. Incredibly detailed!

Trunk opens to reveal fully detailed engine.

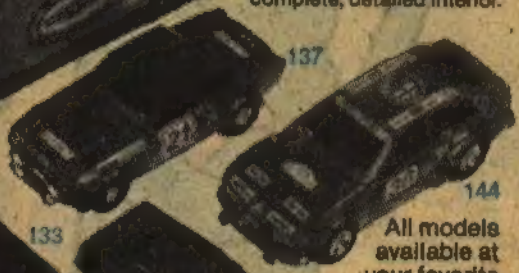


Hood opens to reveal spare tire.

This Porsche Carrera is a big, 7" long and weighs over ¾ pound!



Doors open to reveal complete, detailed interior.



Models Available:
- No. 114 Porsche Carrera (illustrated above)
- No. 137 Fiat Abarth Spider
- No. 144 Alfa Romeo
- No. 113 Datsun 240 Z
- No. 133 Ferrari 512
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You can get these Burago cars at your favorite toy or hobby store.
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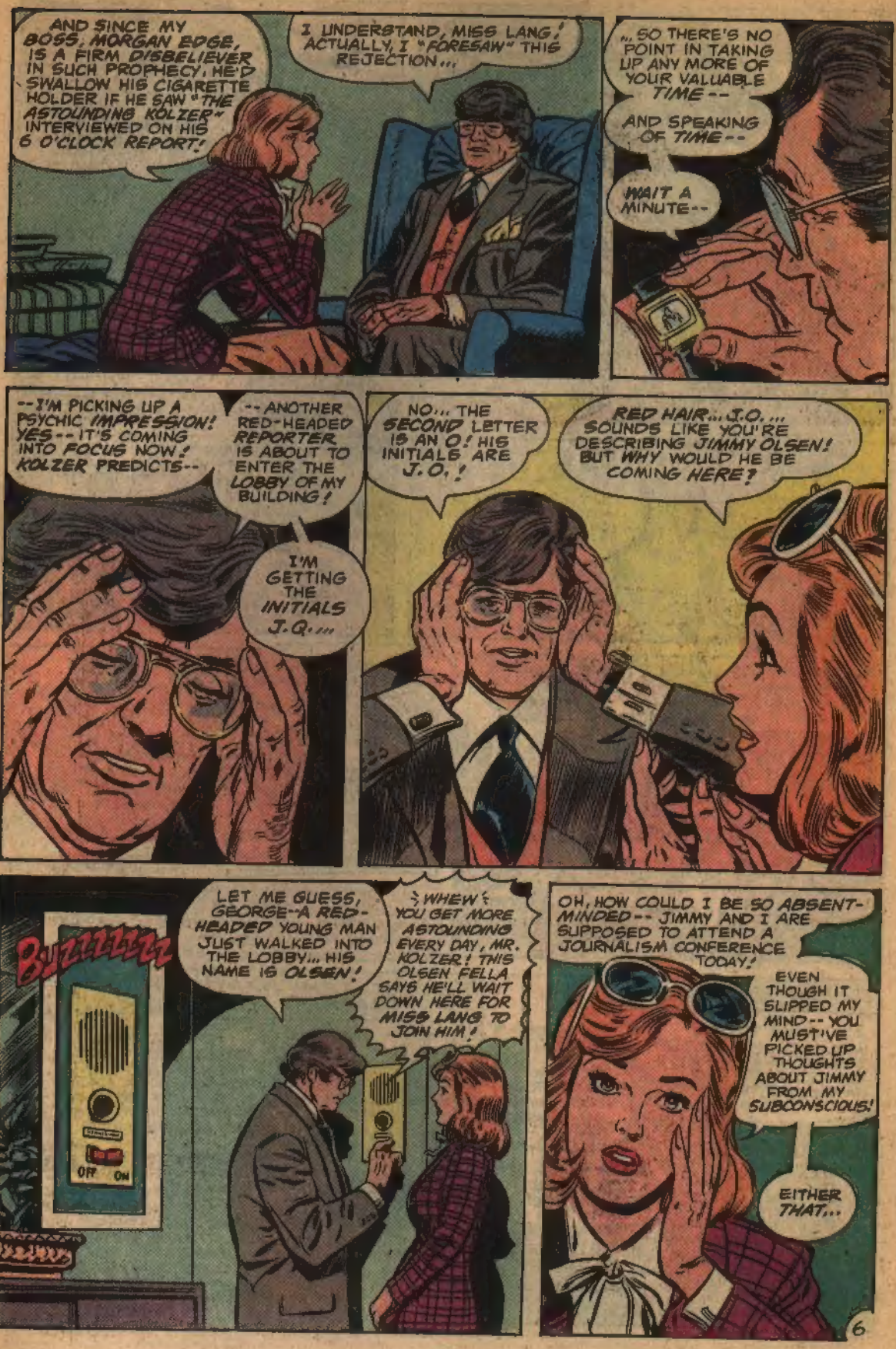
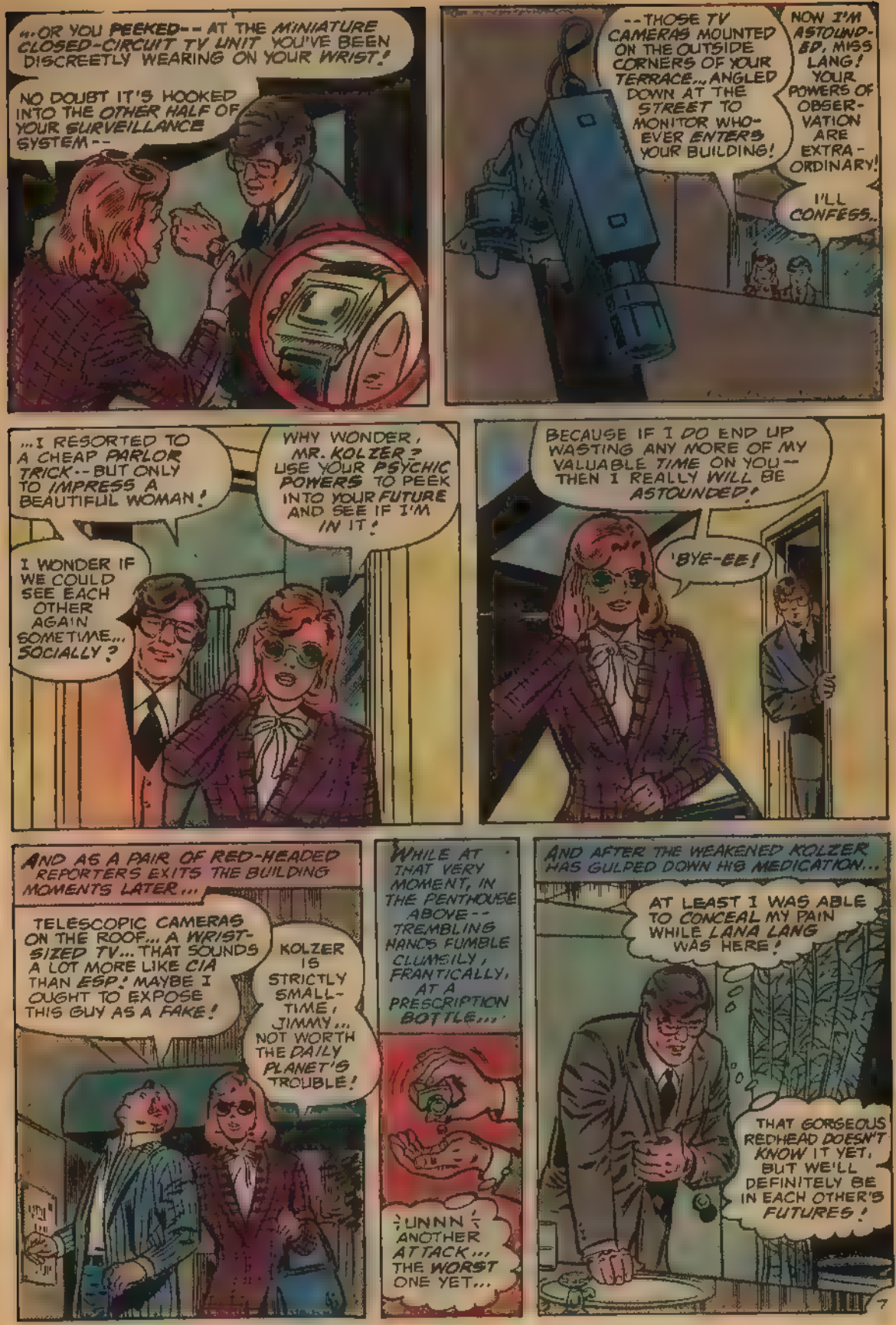
IN THE FUTURE, I SUGGEST YOU CROSS AT THE GREEN--NOT IN BETWEEN!
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
"...I HAVE TO MAKE A LATE-NIGHT SPECIAL DELIVERY TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION!
HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!
S.T.A.
AND AS THE FLABBERGASTED PEDESTRIAN CONTINUES ON HIS WAY--A "MASS" MATERIALIZES OVERHEAD...
"...A MASS THAT BECOMES AN ENTITY UTTERLY UNLIKE ANYTHING EVER OBSERVED IN THIS TIME AND SPACE...
...AN ENTITY WHICH HAS SILENTLY WITNESSED SUPERMAN'S LIFE-SAVING FEAT...
THE TIME: NEXT MORNING...
ACCORDING TO OUR RESEARCH, MR. KOLZER--27% OF THE EVENTS YOU'VE PREDICTED HAVE COME TRUE!
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THAT IS AN AMAZING RECORD!
AS FAR AS KOLZER IS CONCERNED, IT'S ASTOUNDING!
THE PLACE: A POSH PENTHOUSE ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE OF METROPOLIS...
DESPITE YOUR "ASTOUNDING" RECORD, THE ANSWER IS NO! THERE'S STILL A MAJOR CREDIBILITY PROBLEM BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND YOU PSYCHICS!
IT'S NOT ENOUGH THAT YOU'RE RIGHT SOME OF THE TIME...PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW WHY YOUR PREDICTIONS DON'T COME TRUE ALL OF THE TIME!


AND SINCE MY BOSS, MORGAN EDGE, IS A FIRM DISBELIEVER IN SUCH PROPHECY, HE'D SWALLOW HIS CIGARETTE HOLDER IF HE SAW "THE ASTOUNDING KOLZER" INTERVIEWED ON HIS 6 O'CLOCK REPORT!
I UNDERSTAND, MISS LANG! ACTUALLY, I "FORESAW" THIS REJECTION...
...SO THERE'S NO POINT IN TAKING UP ANY MORE OF YOUR VALUABLE TIME--
AND SPEAKING OF TIME--
WAIT A MINUTE--
--I'M PICKING UP A PSYCHIC IMPRESSION! YES--IT'S COMING INTO FOCUS NOW! KOLZER PREDICTS--
--ANOTHER RED-HEADED REPORTER IS ABOUT TO ENTER THE LOBBY OF MY BUILDING!
I'M GETTING THE INITIALS J.Q....
NO... THE SECOND LETTER IS AN O! HIS INITIALS ARE J.O.!
RED HAIR... J.O.... SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE DESCRIBING JIMMY OLSEN! BUT WHY WOULD HE BE COMING HERE?
BUZZZZZZ
OFF ON
LET ME GUESS, GEORGE--A RED-HEADED YOUNG MAN JUST WALKED INTO THE LOBBY... HIS NAME IS OLSEN!
WHEW! YOU GET MORE ASTOUNDING EVERY DAY, MR. KOLZER! THIS OLSEN FELLA SAYS HE'LL WAIT DOWN HERE FOR MISS LANG TO JOIN HIM!
OH, HOW COULD I BE SO ABSENT-MINDED-- JIMMY AND I ARE SUPPOSED TO ATTEND A JOURNALISM CONFERENCE TODAY!
EVEN THOUGH IT SLIPPED MY MIND--YOU MUST'VE PICKED UP THOUGHTS ABOUT JIMMY FROM MY SUBCONSCIOUS!
EITHER THAT...


...OR YOU PEEKED-- AT THE MINIATURE CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV UNIT YOU'VE BEEN DISCREETLY WEARING ON YOUR WRIST!
NO DOUBT IT'S HOOKED INTO THE OTHER HALF OF YOUR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM--
--THOSE TV CAMERAS MOUNTED ON THE OUTSIDE CORNERS OF YOUR TERRACE... ANGLED DOWN AT THE STREET TO MONITOR WHOEVER ENTERS YOUR BUILDING!
NOW I'M ASTOUNDED, MISS LANG! YOUR POWERS OF OBSERVATION ARE EXTRAORDINARY!
I'LL CONFESS..
...I RESORTED TO A CHEAP PARLOR TRICK-- BUT ONLY TO IMPRESS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!
WHY WONDER, MR. KOLZER? USE YOUR PSYCHIC POWERS TO PEEK INTO YOUR FUTURE AND SEE IF I'M IN IT!
I WONDER IF WE COULD SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN SOMETIME... SOCIALLY?
BECAUSE IF I DO END UP WASTING ANY MORE OF MY VALUABLE TIME ON YOU-- THEN I REALLY WILL BE ASTOUNDED!
'BYE-EE!
AND AS A PAIR OF RED-HEADED REPORTERS EXITS THE BUILDING MOMENTS LATER...
TELESCOPIC CAMERAS ON THE ROOF... A WRIST-SIZED TV... THAT SOUNDS A LOT MORE LIKE CIA THAN ESP! MAYBE I OUGHT TO EXPOSE THIS GUY AS A FAKE!
KOLZER IS STRICTLY SMALL-TIME, JIMMY... NOT WORTH THE DAILY PLANET'S TROUBLE!
WHILE AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE PENTHOUSE ABOVE-- TREMBLING HANDS FUMBLE CLUMSILY, FRANTICALLY, AT A PRESCRIPTION BOTTLE...
UNNN! ANOTHER ATTACK... THE WORST ONE YET...
AND AFTER THE WEAKENED KOLZER HAS GULPED DOWN HIS MEDICATION...
AT LEAST I WAS ABLE TO CONCEAL MY PAIN WHILE LANA LANG WAS HERE!
THAT GORGEOUS REDHEAD DOESN'T KNOW IT YET, BUT WE'LL DEFINITELY BE IN EACH OTHER'S FUTURES!
7

AT THAT MOMENT, HUNDREDS OF MILES NORTH-WEST OF METROPOLIS--A FIGURE FLASHES TOWARD A CLOUD-ENCASED MOUNTAIN PEAK...
GREAT KRYPTON! WHAT'S [redacted] HOLD OF ME?
SECONDS AGO, I WAS HEADING FOR THE GALAXY BUILDING--
--WHEN I WAS COMPELLED TO MAKE A U-TURN AND FLY TOWARD MOUNT CESSNA!
THEN, DEEP WITHIN THE TURBULENCE OF THE [redacted] CLOUD RAGING ABOUT THE ROCKY SUMMIT...
OKAY...NOW THAT I'VE BEEN FORCED TO LAND HERE..., WHAT NEXT?
DON'T SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING UNUSUAL!
THEN IT IS TIME TO SEE AND HEAR ME, SUPERMAN!
YOU AGAIN? I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF YOU NEAR THAT PSEUDO-COMET YESTERDAY!
IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO VOCALIZE YOUR THOUGHTS, SUPERMAN! TELEPATHIC TRANSMISSION AND RECEPTION ARE ELEMENTARY FUNCTIONS FOR ME...
WHO--OR WHAT--ARE YOU?
...AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE MENTAL COMMAND WHICH SUMMONED YOU HERE! CALL ME NULL-O! AND I AM AN ARTIFICIAL BEING OF NEITHER MATTER NOR ENERGY!
AS FOR YESTERDAY--IT WAS I WHO ELIMINATED THE "PSEUDO-COMET", AS YOU CALL IT...
"...BY AUTOMATICALLY ABSORBING ALL OF ITS VOLATILE ENERGY OUT OF YOUR TIME PERIOD! THIS IS THE FUNCTION FOR WHICH I WAS CREATED!
"MY MASTERS ARE THE ULTIMATE DESCENDANTS OF WHAT IS CURRENTLY THE HUMAN RACE."
THEY DWELL--EXIST--IN THE VERY FAR FUTURE..., AN ERA YOU HAVE NEVER VISITED!
NOT EVEN YOUR SUPERBRAIN COULD FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR TECHNOLOGY--OF WHICH I AM A PART! ONE MIGHT MORE EASILY EXPLAIN THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY TO A CAVEMAN--[redacted] "RED" TO A MAN BORN BLIND!

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THE FLASH™
IN "THE STONY-EYED MEDUSA"
FLASH IS IN PURSUIT OF MEDUSA ... A WOMAN "WHOSE STARE TURNS PEOPLE INTO STONE."
GOTTA HURRY OR MEDUSA WILL TURN THAT PARADE INTO STATUES.
LOOK...THAT STREAK OF LIGHT IS HEADING RIGHT FOR US!!
THAT'S NO STREAK OF LIGHT. THAT'S THE FLASH!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.
NOT EVEN THE FLASH... CAN WITHSTAND MY STONY STARE.
I CAN FEEL MYSELF SLOWING DOWN.
MEDUSA'S GOT HER EYES ON ME.
GOT TO DO SOMETHING...
...FAST!
LOOK!
HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES!
APPLE AND CHERRY.
BEST SIGHT I'VE SEEN ALL DAY. I LOVE THE LIGHT, TENDER CRUST.
AND THE REAL FRUIT FILLING.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY EYES OFF YOU, FLASH.
BUT HOSTESS FRUIT PIES ARE TOO GOOD TO IGNORE!
I WAS COUNTING ON THAT.
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES
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WHO IS STARMAN™

ON SALE THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE OCTOBER 25TH!! DON'T DARE MISS IT!!

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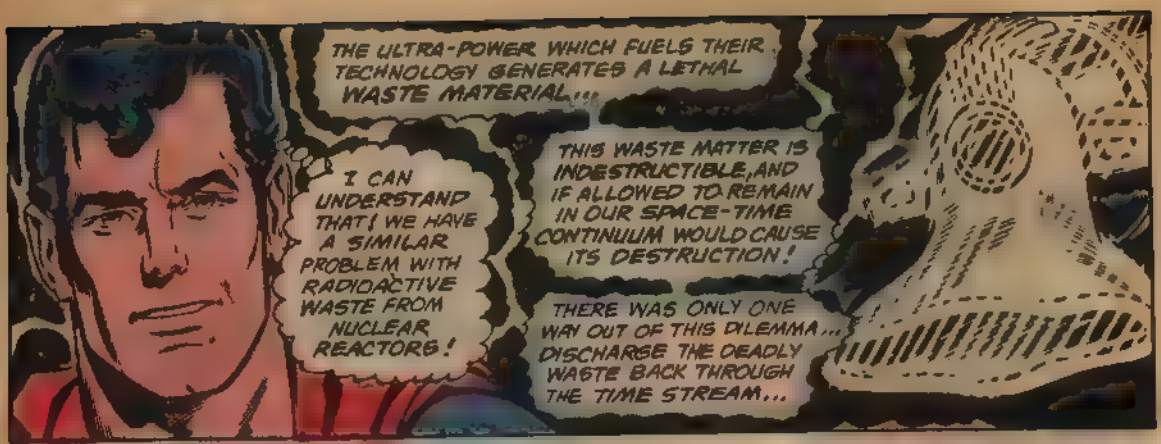
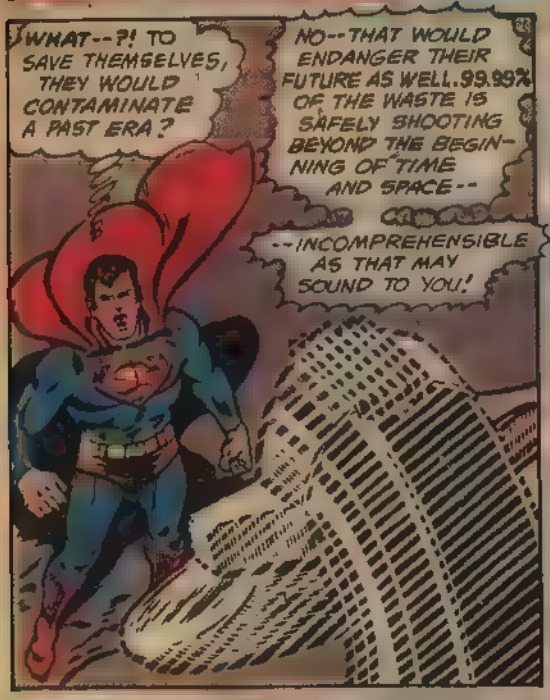
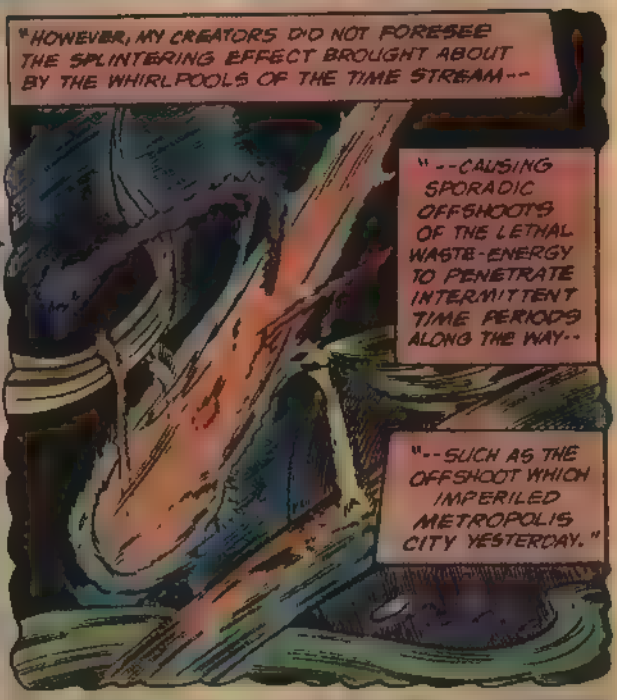
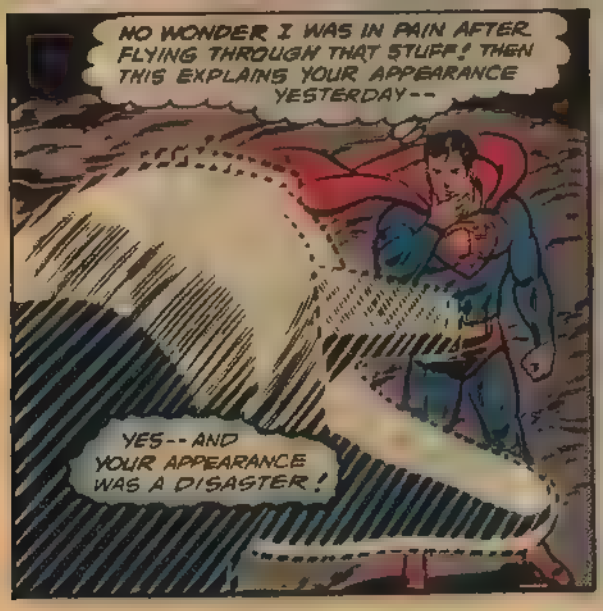
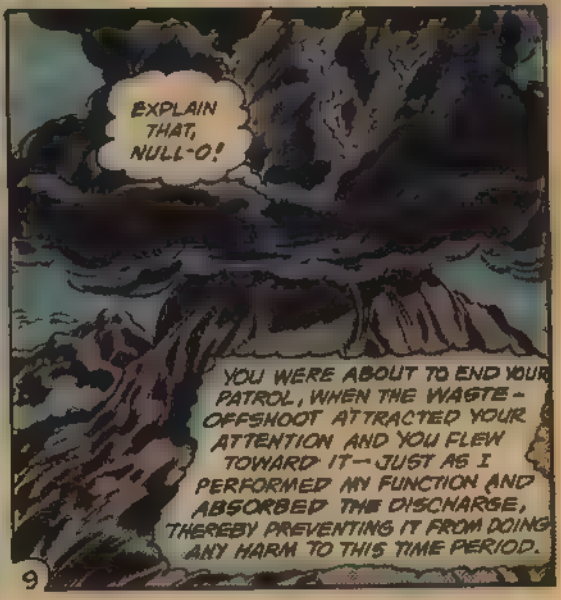

THE ULTRA-POWER WHICH FUELS THEIR TECHNOLOGY GENERATES A LETHAL WASTE MATERIAL...
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT! WE HAVE A SIMILAR PROBLEM WITH RADIOACTIVE WASTE FROM NUCLEAR REACTORS!
THIS WASTE MATTER IS INDESTRUCTIBLE, AND IF ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN OUR SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM WOULD CAUSE ITS DESTRUCTION!
THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF THIS DILEMMA... DISCHARGE THE DEADLY WASTE BACK THROUGH THE TIME STREAM...


WHAT--?! TO SAVE THEMSELVES, THEY WOULD CONTAMINATE A PAST ERA?
NO--THAT WOULD ENDANGER THEIR FUTURE AS WELL. 99.99% OF THE WASTE IS SAFELY SHOOTING BEYOND THE BEGINNING OF TIME AND SPACE--
--INCOMPREHENSIBLE AS THAT MAY SOUND TO YOU!


"HOWEVER, MY CREATORS DID NOT FORESEE THE SPLINTERING EFFECT BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE WHIRLPOOLS OF THE TIME STREAM--
"--CAUSING SPORADIC OFFSHOOTS OF THE LETHAL WASTE-ENERGY TO PENETRATE INTERMITTENT TIME PERIODS ALONG THE WAY--
"--SUCH AS THE OFFSHOOT WHICH IMPERILED METROPOLIS CITY YESTERDAY."


NO WONDER I WAS IN PAIN AFTER FLYING THROUGH THAT STUFF! THEN THIS EXPLAINS YOUR APPEARANCE YESTERDAY--
YES--AND YOUR APPEARANCE WAS A DISASTER!


EXPLAIN THAT, NULL-O!
YOU WERE ABOUT TO END YOUR PATROL, WHEN THE WASTE-OFFSHOOT ATTRACTED YOUR ATTENTION AND YOU FLEW TOWARD IT--JUST AS I PERFORMED MY FUNCTION AND ABSORBED THE DISCHARGE, THEREBY PREVENTING IT FROM DOING ANY HARM TO THIS TIME PERIOD.

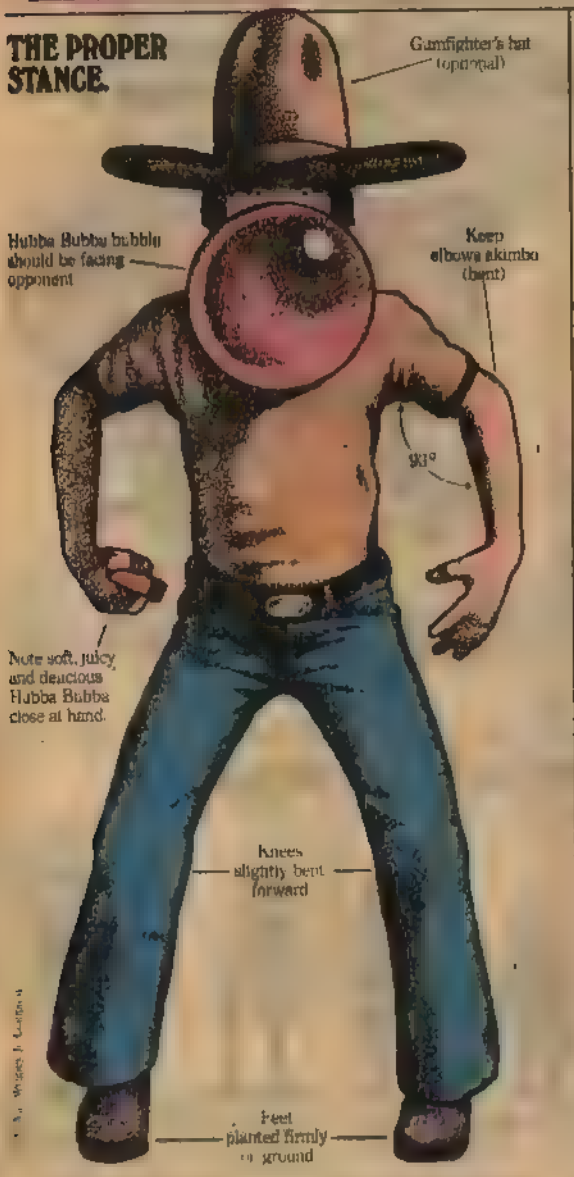
YOU RECALL THE ACTION YOU PERFORMED NEXT--?
YES! I CAUGHT SOME BANK ROBBERS AND SAVED A PEDESTRIAN FROM BEING RUN DOWN BY THEIR CAR!
THAT'S MY FUNCTION HERE!
FROM THE OUTSET, YOUR PRESENCE WAS DISTURBING. I WAS PROGRAMMED FOR MY FUNCTION BY BEING FED THE COMPLETE HISTORICAL RECORDS OF MY CREATORS ERA--
--AN ERA I CAN NO LONGER REACH BECAUSE OF YOU!
FOR ACCORDING TO HISTORY...
"...THOSE CRIMINALS WERE ARRESTED BY POLICE--AFTER KILLING THAT PEDESTRIAN!
"NOW, BECAUSE THE WASTE-DISCHARGE BROUGHT YOU WHERE YOU WERE NOT MEANT TO BE, THE DELICATE BALANCE OF THE TIME STREAM HAS BEEN DISASTROUSLY ALTERED!"
DISASTROUSLY? HOW--?
I AM UNABLE TO TELL YOU! AS MY FUNCTION IS TO ABSORB WASTE-MATTER--WITHOUT EXPENDING EVEN ONE ERG OF ENERGY--
--I CANNOT LET MY PRESENCE IN THIS SPACE-TIME INTERFERE WITH THE CONSERVATION OF MASS AND ENERGY!
I CAN DO NOTHING TO AVERT THE CATASTROPHE THAT WILL SOON OCCUR BECAUSE OF THE LIFE YOU WRONGFULLY SAVED!
THIS MUCH I CAN TELL YOU, SUPERMAN--
--YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DIVERTING THE TIME STREAM! ONLY YOU CAN SET IT BACK ON COURSE...AND STRAIGHTEN OUT HISTORY!
YOU MUST ACCOMPLISH THIS WITHIN TWO DAYS--FOR IF THIS CATASTROPHE SHOULD OCCUR--

CONTINUED ON 8TH PAGE FOLLOWING

GUMFIGHTING DO'S AND DON'TS.

The first thing to do—pick the right chew: new Hubba Bubba.® The soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles™ Then proceed with this simple yet effective gumfight drill: (1) Begin blowing bubble. Note Hubba Bubba's incredibly large bubble. (2) When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do not be alarmed. (3) Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1. Repeat drill ten times.

THE PROPER STANCE.


Gumfighter's hat (optional)
Hubba Bubba bubble should be facing opponent
Keep elbows akimbo (bent)
90°
Note soft, juicy and delicious Hubba Bubba close at hand.
knees slightly bent forward
Feet planted firmly on ground

SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT.

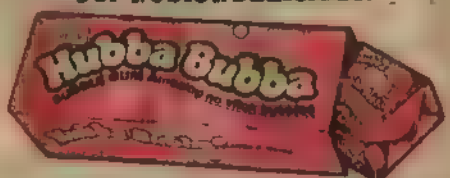
The size of your bubble is. And that means choosing the right bubble gum —Hubba Bubba. Because when it comes to great, big, fat bubbles, nothing sizes up to a Hubba Bubba bubble.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES.

This boy did. And now instead of wearing a smile, he's wearing a paper bag over the bubble gum stuck to his face. Definitely not new soft and juicy Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum. Does Hubba Bubba really work? Absolutely! Hubba Bubba is gumfighter tested and approved.

So pick up a pack of new Hubba Bubba in original or mint flavor. Enjoy that soft, juicy, delicious taste. Plus those great, big Hubba Bubba bubbles that won't stick to your face.

SOFT. JUICY. DELICIOUS.



BIG BUBBLES, NO TROUBLES.

STAR WARS

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Stormtrooper™ carrier vehicle. Holds up to 11 action figures! Plays six sounds from Star Wars™ including R2-D2,™ C-3PO™ and Stormtrooper.™ *Assembly required.*

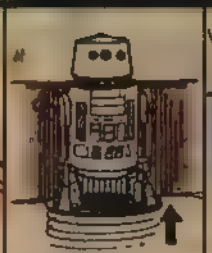
Star Wars™ action figures not included. Batteries not included.

Push buttons and hear Star Wars™ sounds.

Movable Laser Gun™ and radar dish.

Place figure in driver's seat.

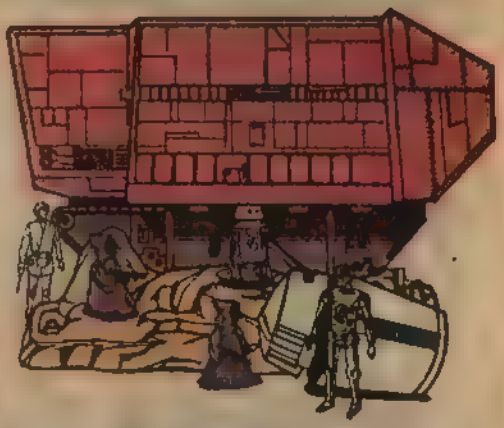
Lever makes Jawa™ move, knock over & capture R2-D2.™



Elevator lifts up into Sandcrawler™

Escape landing pod.

NEW STAR WARS™ LAND OF THE JAWAS™



An action playset to recreate the adventures of the mysterious Jawas™ and their Sandcrawler™ on Tatooine™ desert! *Assembly required.*

Star Wars™ action figures not included.

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Featuring four Cantina™ Creatures and Star Wars'™ newest villain – Boba Fett.™ *(Each sold separately.)*

WALRUS™ R5-D4™ POWER DROID™ DEATH STAR DROID™ BOBA FETT™ SNAGGLETOOTH™ GREEDO™ HAMMERHEAD™ LUKE SKYWALKER™ X-WING PILOT™

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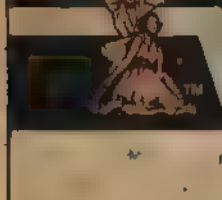

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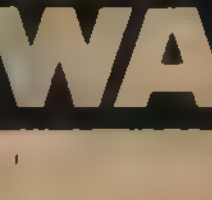
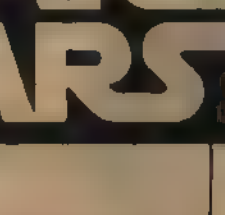


Movable Laser Gun™ and radar dish.



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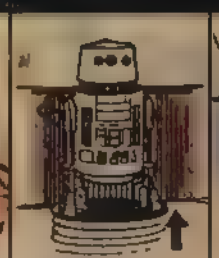

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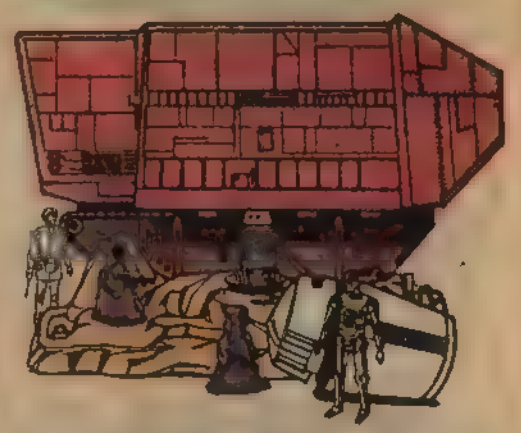

An action playset to recreate the adventures of the mysterious Jawas™ and their Sandcrawler™ on Tatooine™ desert! *Assembly required.*

Star Wars™ action figures not included.

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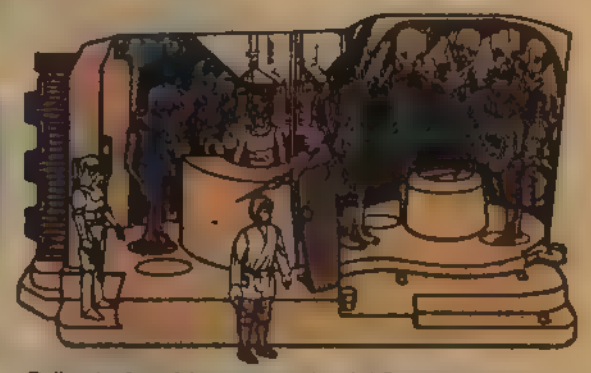

Relive the fun of that crazy and weird Cantina™ and its creatures. Exciting playset has action lever movement for mock battles and automatic door action.

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Star Wars™ action figures not included

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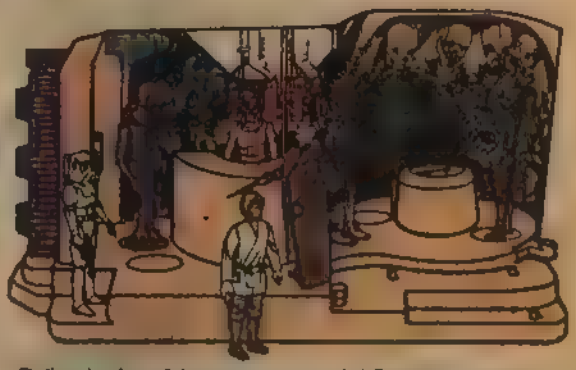

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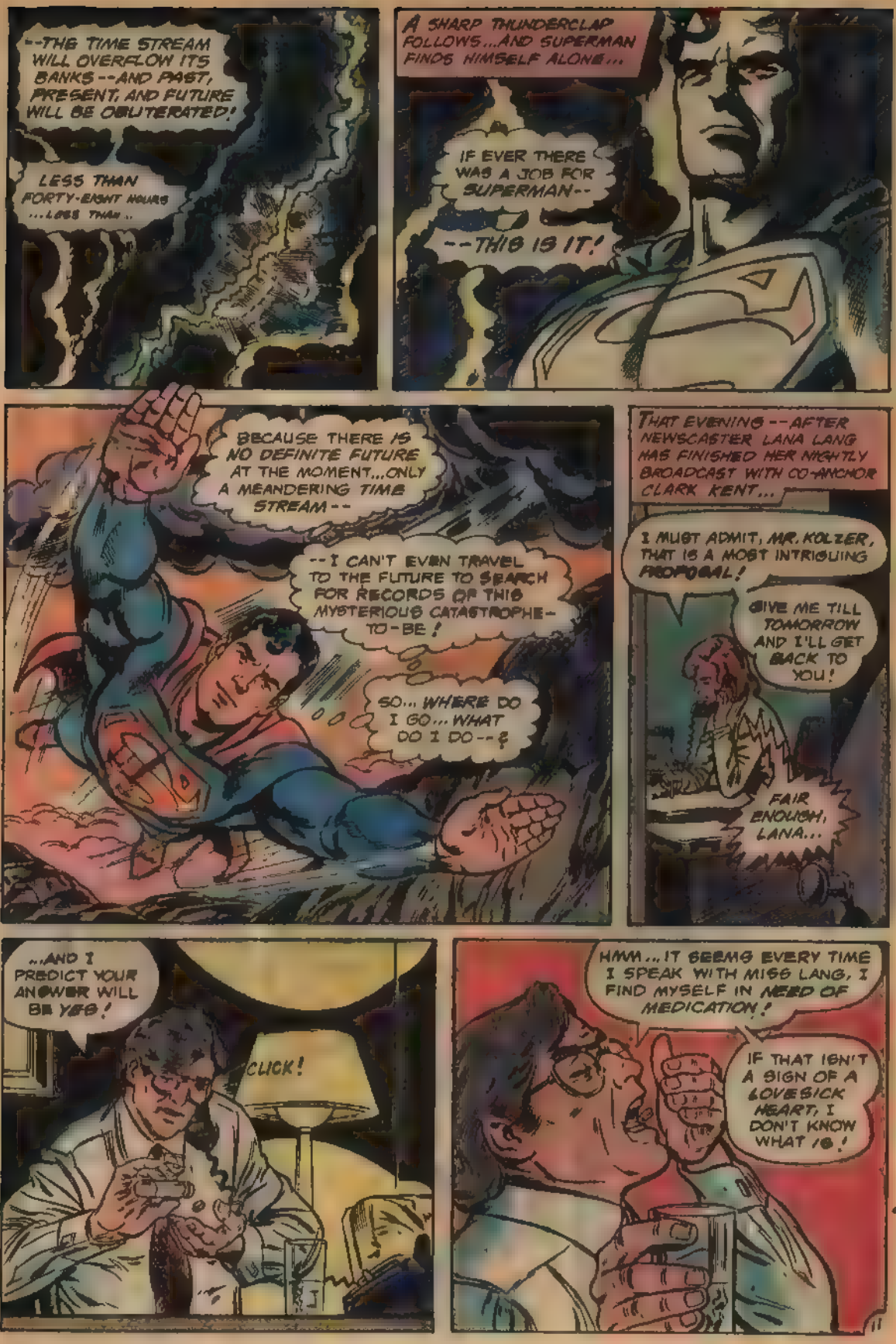
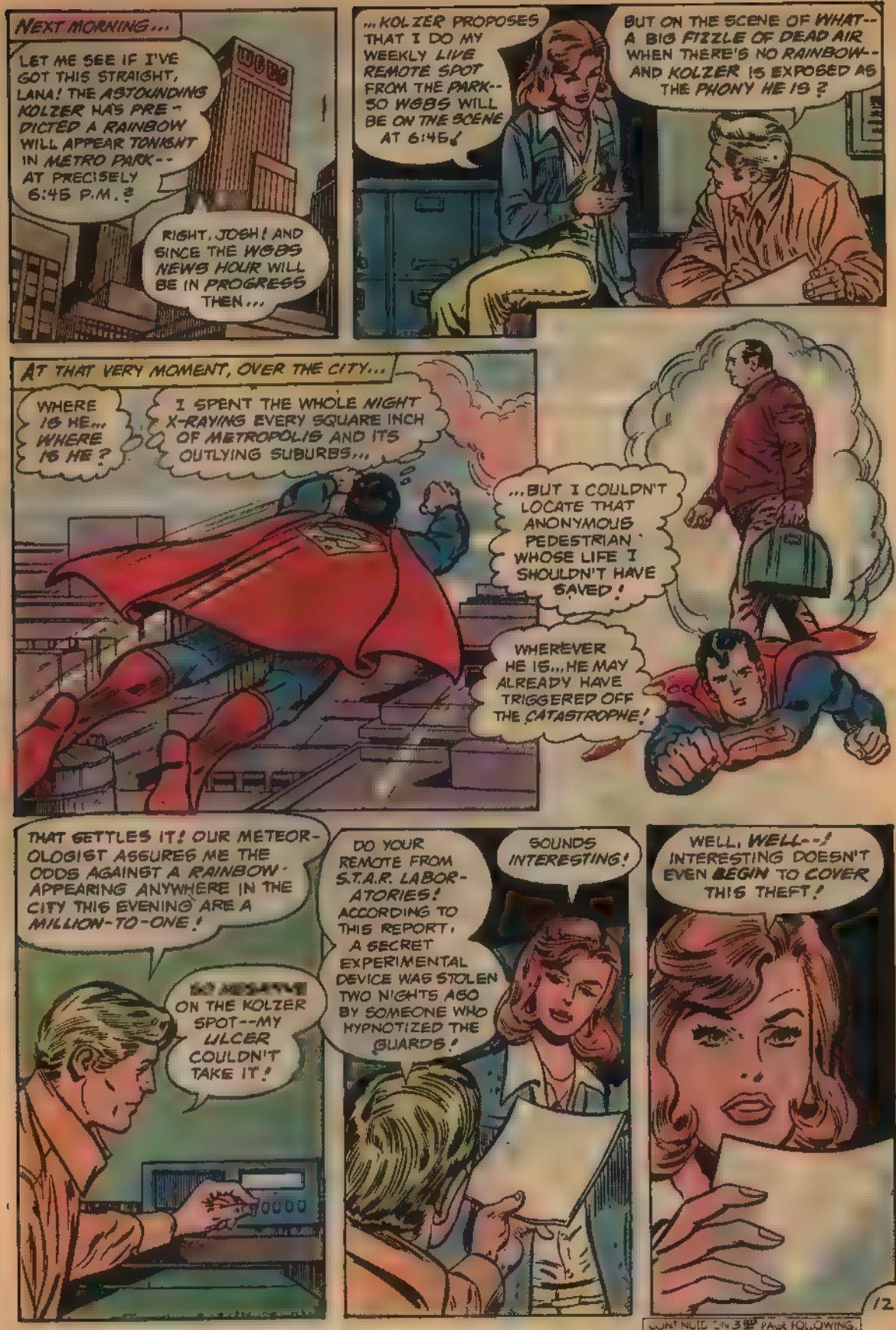

--THE TIME STREAM WILL OVERFLOW ITS BANKS--AND PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE WILL BE OBLITERATED!
LESS THAN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS ...LESS THAN ..
A SHARP THUNDERCLAP FOLLOWS...AND SUPERMAN FINDS HIMSELF ALONE...
IF EVER THERE WAS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN--
--THIS IS IT!
BECAUSE THERE IS NO DEFINITE FUTURE AT THE MOMENT...ONLY A MEANDERING TIME STREAM--
--I CAN'T EVEN TRAVEL TO THE FUTURE TO SEARCH FOR RECORDS OF THIS MYSTERIOUS CATASTROPHE-TO-BE!
SO... WHERE DO I GO... WHAT DO I DO--?
THAT EVENING--AFTER NEWSCASTER LANA LANG HAS FINISHED HER NIGHTLY BROADCAST WITH CO-ANCHOR CLARK KENT...
I MUST ADMIT, MR. KOLZER, THAT IS A MOST INTRIGUING PROPOSAL!
GIVE ME TILL TOMORROW AND I'LL GET BACK TO YOU!
FAIR ENOUGH, LANA...
...AND I PREDICT YOUR ANSWER WILL BE YES!
CLICK!
HMM... IT SEEMS EVERY TIME I SPEAK WITH MISS LANG, I FIND MYSELF IN NEED OF MEDICATION!
IF THAT ISN'T A SIGN OF A LOVESICK HEART, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS!


NEXT MORNING...
LET ME SEE IF I'VE GOT THIS STRAIGHT, LANA! THE ASTOUNDING KOLZER HAS PREDICTED A RAINBOW WILL APPEAR TONIGHT IN METRO PARK--AT PRECISELY 6:45 P.M.?
RIGHT, JOSH! AND SINCE THE WGBS NEWS HOUR WILL BE IN PROGRESS THEN...
...KOLZER PROPOSES THAT I DO MY WEEKLY LIVE REMOTE SPOT FROM THE PARK--SO WGBS WILL BE ON THE SCENE AT 6:45!
BUT ON THE SCENE OF WHAT--A BIG FIZZLE OF DEAD AIR WHEN THERE'S NO RAINBOW--AND KOLZER IS EXPOSED AS THE PHONY HE IS?
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, OVER THE CITY...
WHERE IS HE... WHERE IS HE?
I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT X-RAYING EVERY SQUARE INCH OF METROPOLIS AND ITS OUTLYING SUBURBS...
...BUT I COULDN'T LOCATE THAT ANONYMOUS PEDESTRIAN WHOSE LIFE I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAVED!
WHEREVER HE IS... HE MAY ALREADY HAVE TRIGGERED OFF THE CATASTROPHE!
THAT SETTLES IT! OUR METEOROLOGIST ASSURES ME THE ODDS AGAINST A RAINBOW APPEARING ANYWHERE IN THE CITY THIS EVENING ARE A MILLION-TO-ONE!
[redacted] ON THE KOLZER SPOT--MY ULCER COULDN'T TAKE IT!
DO YOUR REMOTE FROM S.T.A.R. LABORATORIES! ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, A SECRET EXPERIMENTAL DEVICE WAS STOLEN TWO NIGHTS AGO BY SOMEONE WHO HYPNOTIZED THE GUARDS!
SOUNDS INTERESTING!
WELL, WELL--! INTERESTING DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO COVER THIS THEFT!
12
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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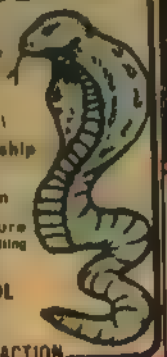

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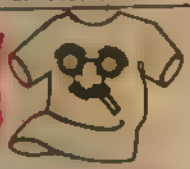

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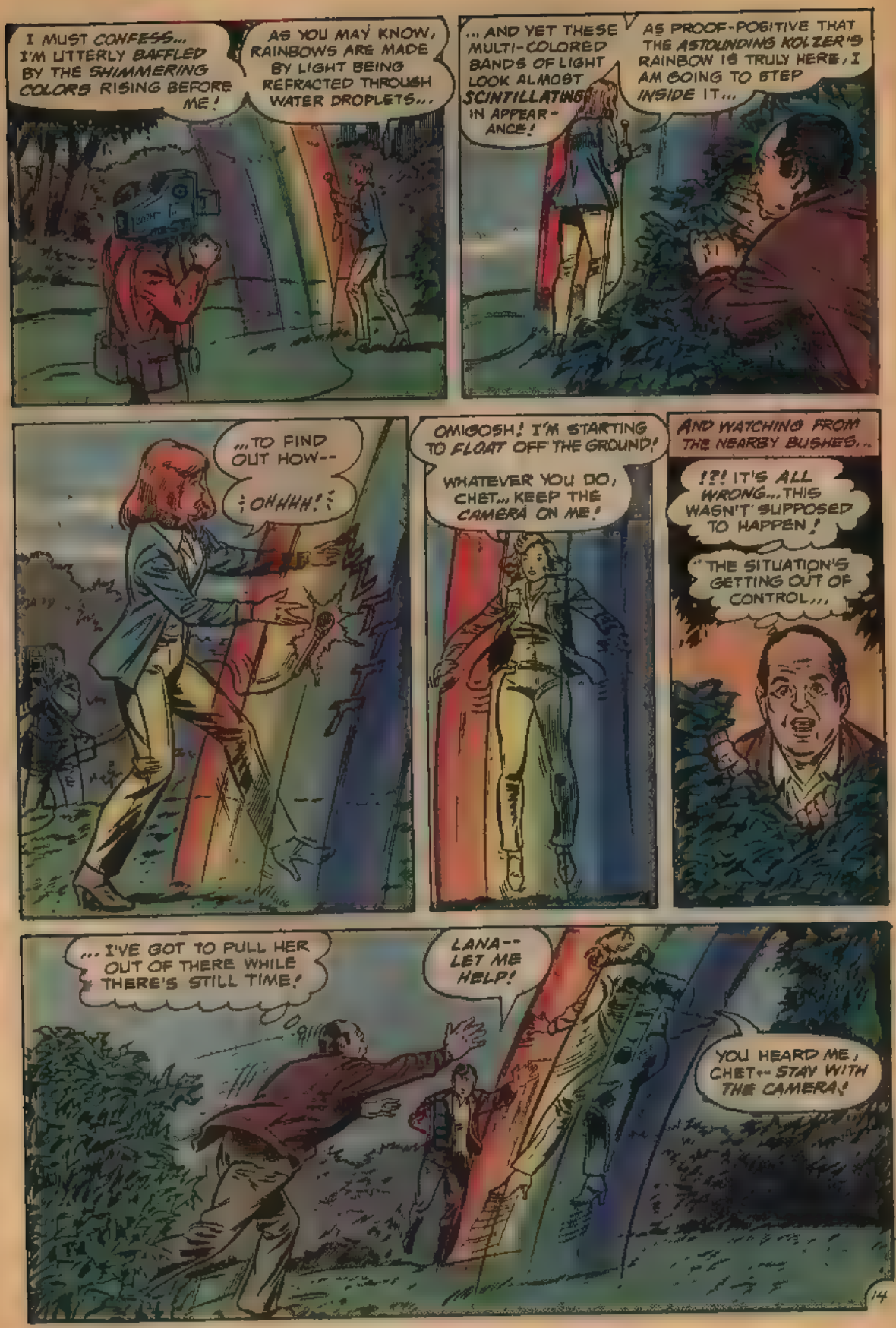
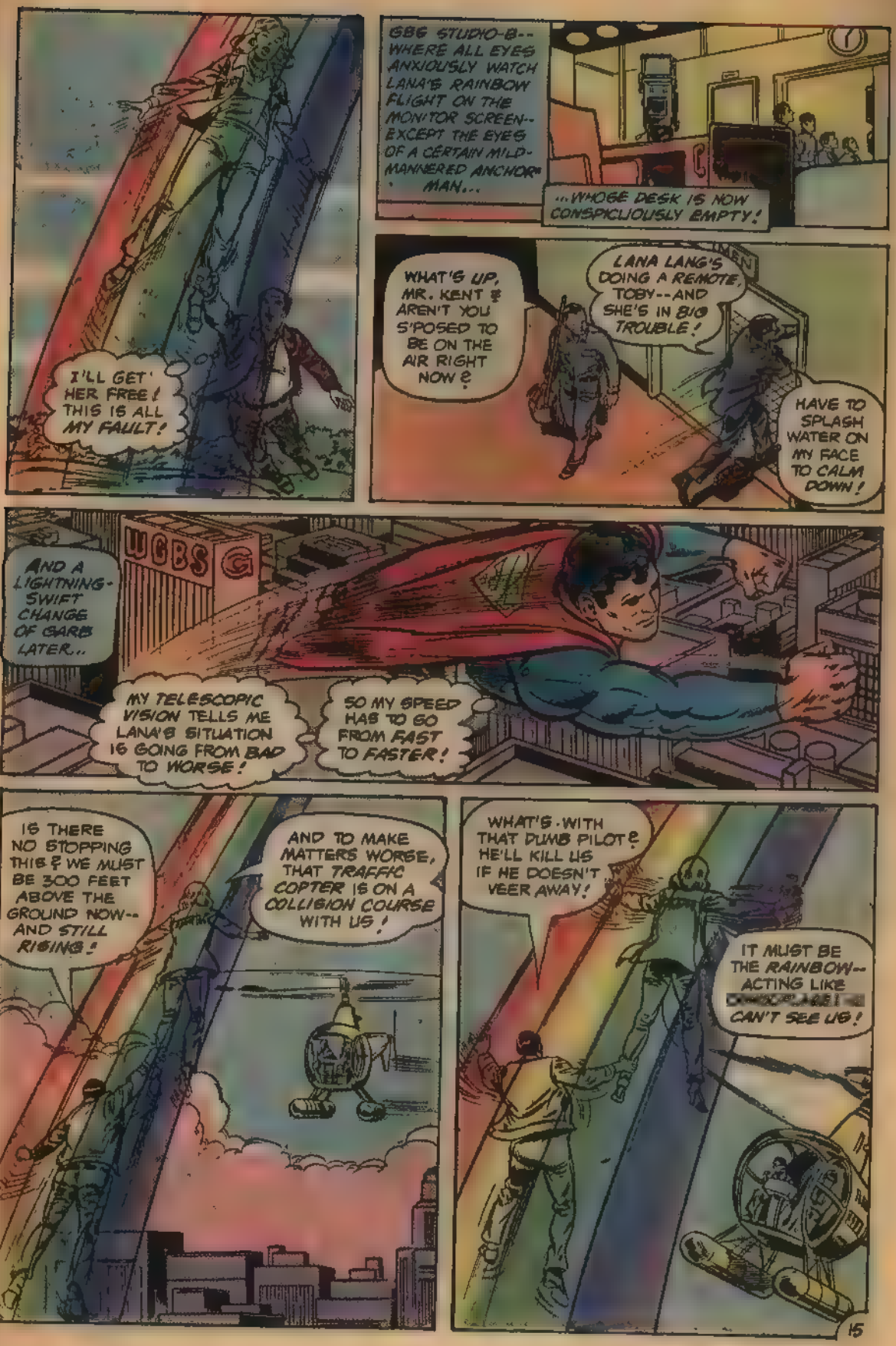
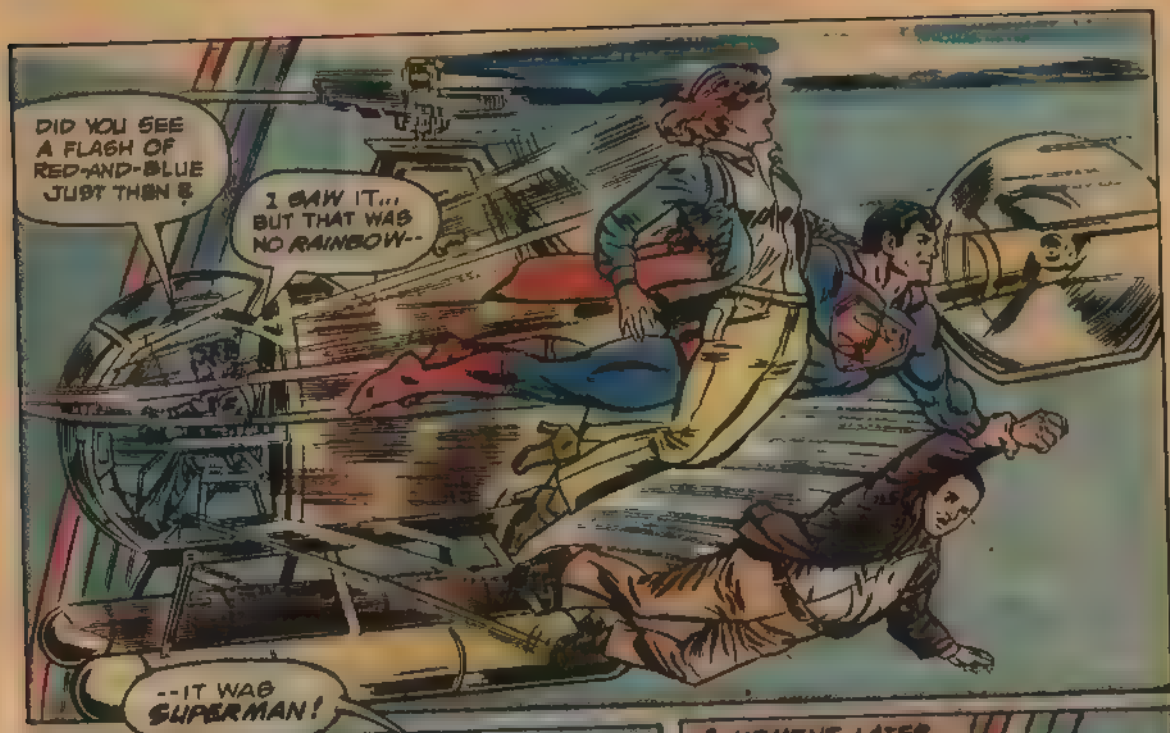
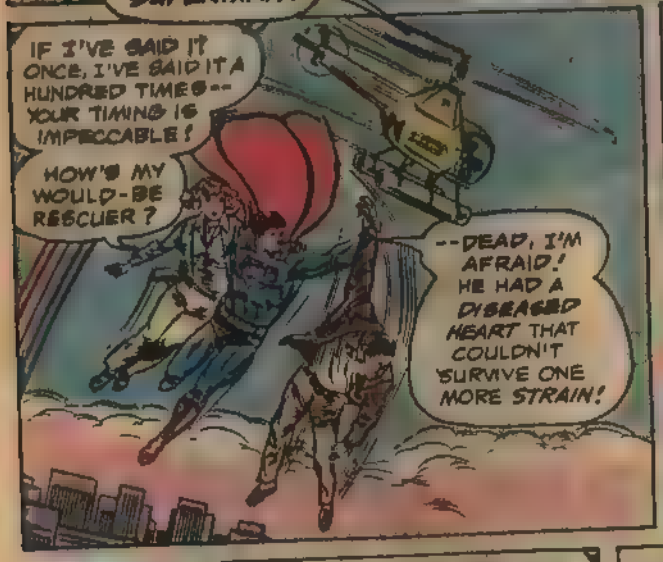
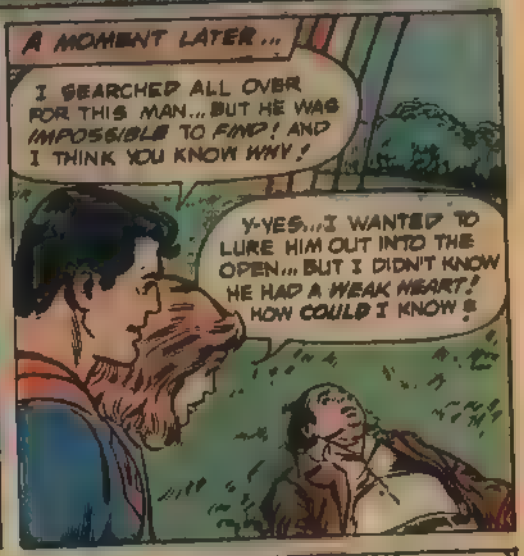
6:44 THAT EVENING: THE WGBS 6 O'CLOCK REPORT IS ON THE AIR...
...BUT THE MAYOR HAD NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME! AND NOW FOR OUR WEEKLY "LIVE FROM LANA" SPOT, WE SWITCH TO METRO PARK-- FOR WHAT COULD BE THE MOST COLORFUL STORY OF THE DAY!
TAKE IT AWAY, LANA!
THANKS, CLARK! WE'RE HERE IN METRO PARK TO FIND OUT HOW ASTOUNDING THE ASTOUNDING KOLZER REALLY IS --
--AS WE'RE ABOUT TO SEE IF HIS LATEST PREDICTION WILL COME TRUE!
YOU TALKED ME INTO THIS, LANA--YOU BETTER DELIVER!
KOLZER HAS PUBLICLY PREDICTED A RAINBOW WILL APPEAR IN THIS SECTION OF THE PARK AT 6:45 P.M. --EVEN THOUGH THE RIGHT WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE NOT PREVALENT.
VIEWERS, PLEASE COUNT DOWN WITH ME--TEN, NINE, EIGHT...
THREE...
...TWO...
†GASP!† I ASSURE YOU, VIEWERS, WHAT YOU'RE SEEING NOW IS NO CAMERA TRICK...
WGBS
...BUT THE BIRTH OF AN AUTHENTIC RAINBOW IN LIVING COLOR!
NICE GOIN', LANA-BABY! YOU JUST BOOSTED OUR RATING!

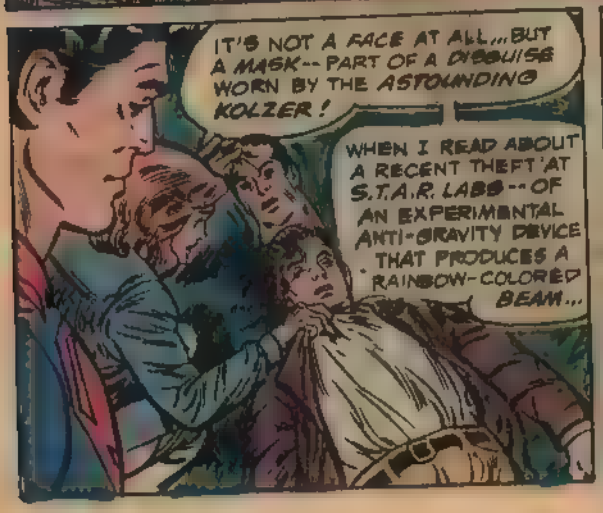

I MUST CONFESS... I'M UTTERLY BAFFLED BY THE SHIMMERING COLORS RISING BEFORE ME!
AS YOU MAY KNOW, RAINBOWS ARE MADE BY LIGHT BEING REFRACTED THROUGH WATER DROPLETS...
...AND YET THESE MULTI-COLORED BANDS OF LIGHT LOOK ALMOST SCINTILLATING IN APPEARANCE!
AS PROOF-POSITIVE THAT THE ASTOUNDING KOLZER'S RAINBOW IS TRULY HERE, I AM GOING TO STEP INSIDE IT...
...TO FIND OUT HOW--
¦OHHHH!¦
OMIGOSH! I'M STARTING TO FLOAT OFF THE GROUND!
WHATEVER YOU DO, CHET... KEEP THE CAMERA ON ME!
AND WATCHING FROM THE NEARBY BUSHES...
!?! IT'S ALL WRONG... THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN!
THE SITUATION'S GETTING OUT OF CONTROL...
...I'VE GOT TO PULL HER OUT OF THERE WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
LANA-- LET ME HELP!
YOU HEARD ME, CHET-- STAY WITH THE CAMERA!

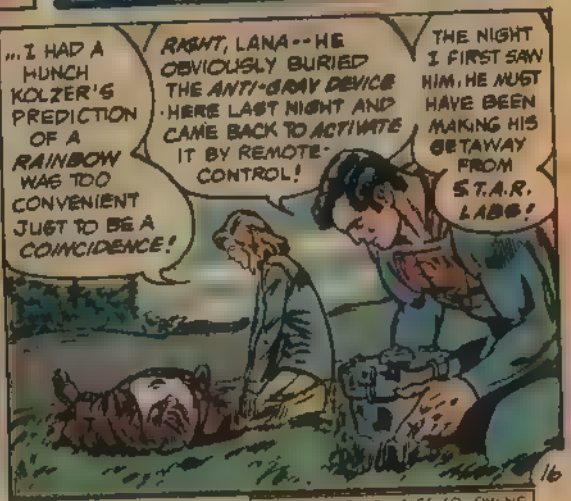

I'LL GET HER FREE! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!
CBG STUDIO-B--WHERE ALL EYES ANXIOUSLY WATCH LANA'S RAINBOW FLIGHT ON THE MONITOR SCREEN--EXCEPT THE EYES OF A CERTAIN MILD-MANNERED ANCHOR-MAN...
...WHOSE DESK IS NOW CONSPICUOUSLY EMPTY!
WHAT'S UP, MR. KENT? AREN'T YOU S'POSED TO BE ON THE AIR RIGHT NOW?
LANA LANG'S DOING A REMOTE, TOBY--AND SHE'S IN BIG TROUBLE!
HAVE TO SPLASH WATER ON MY FACE TO CALM DOWN!
AND A LIGHTNING-SWIFT CHANGE OF GARB LATER...
WGBS
MY TELESCOPIC VISION TELLS ME LANA'S SITUATION IS GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE!
SO MY SPEED HAS TO GO FROM FAST TO FASTER!
IS THERE NO STOPPING THIS? WE MUST BE 300 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND NOW--AND STILL RISING!
AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THAT TRAFFIC COPTER IS ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH US!
WHAT'S WITH THAT DUMB PILOT? HE'LL KILL US IF HE DOESN'T VEER AWAY!
IT MUST BE THE RAINBOW--ACTING LIKE [redacted] CAN'T SEE US!




IF I'VE SAID IT ONCE, I'VE SAID IT A HUNDRED TIMES-- YOUR TIMING IS IMPECCABLE!
HOW'S MY WOULD-BE RESCUER?
--DEAD, I'M AFRAID! HE HAD A DISEASED HEART THAT COULDN'T SURVIVE ONE MORE STRAIN!

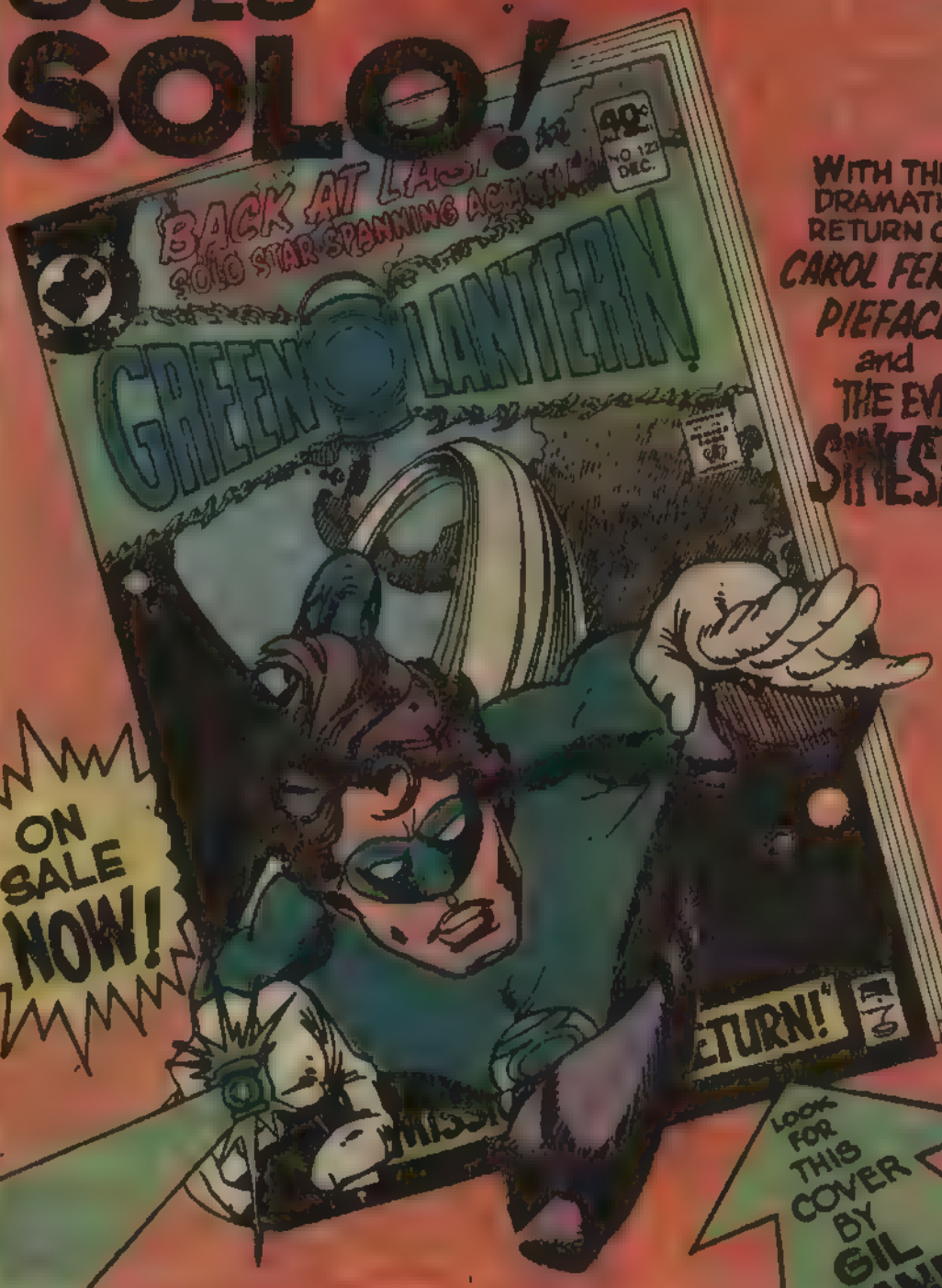

A MOMENT LATER...
I SEARCHED ALL OVER FOR THIS MAN... BUT HE WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND! AND I THINK YOU KNOW WHY!
Y-YES... I WANTED TO LURE HIM OUT INTO THE OPEN... BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD A WEAK HEART! HOW COULD I KNOW?


IT'S NOT A FACE AT ALL... BUT A MASK-- PART OF A DISGUISE WORN BY THE ASTOUNDING KOLZER!
WHEN I READ ABOUT A RECENT THEFT AT S.T.A.R. LABS-- OF AN EXPERIMENTAL ANTI-GRAVITY DEVICE THAT PRODUCES A RAINBOW-COLORED BEAM...


...I HAD A HUNCH KOLZER'S PREDICTION OF A RAINBOW WAS TOO CONVENIENT JUST TO BE A COINCIDENCE!
RIGHT, LANA-- HE OBVIOUSLY BURIED THE ANTI-GRAV DEVICE HERE LAST NIGHT AND CAME BACK TO ACTIVATE IT BY REMOTE-CONTROL!
THE NIGHT I FIRST SAW HIM, HE MUST HAVE BEEN MAKING HIS GETAWAY FROM S.T.A.R. LABS!

CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

BY OVERWHELMING POPULAR DEMAND--GREEN LANTERN GOES SOLO!



WITH THE DRAMATIC RETURN OF--
CAROL FERRIS!
PIEFACE!
and
THE EVIL SINESTRO!

ON SALE NOW!

LOOK FOR THIS COVER BY GIL KANE!

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FOUR FANTASTIC FEAR-FILLED BOOKS...
SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE
MYSTERY
WEIRD WAR
GHOSTS
A HAIR-RAISING HALLOWEEN CHILLER!
THE SUPER FRIENDS
--AND-- A HARROWING HALLOWEEN SUPER-HERO SENSATION featuring 5 FEARSOME FIENDS!
BIZARRO! SWAMP THING! THE DEMON! SOLOMON GRUNDY! & MAN-BAT!
ON SALE OCTOBER 25th!
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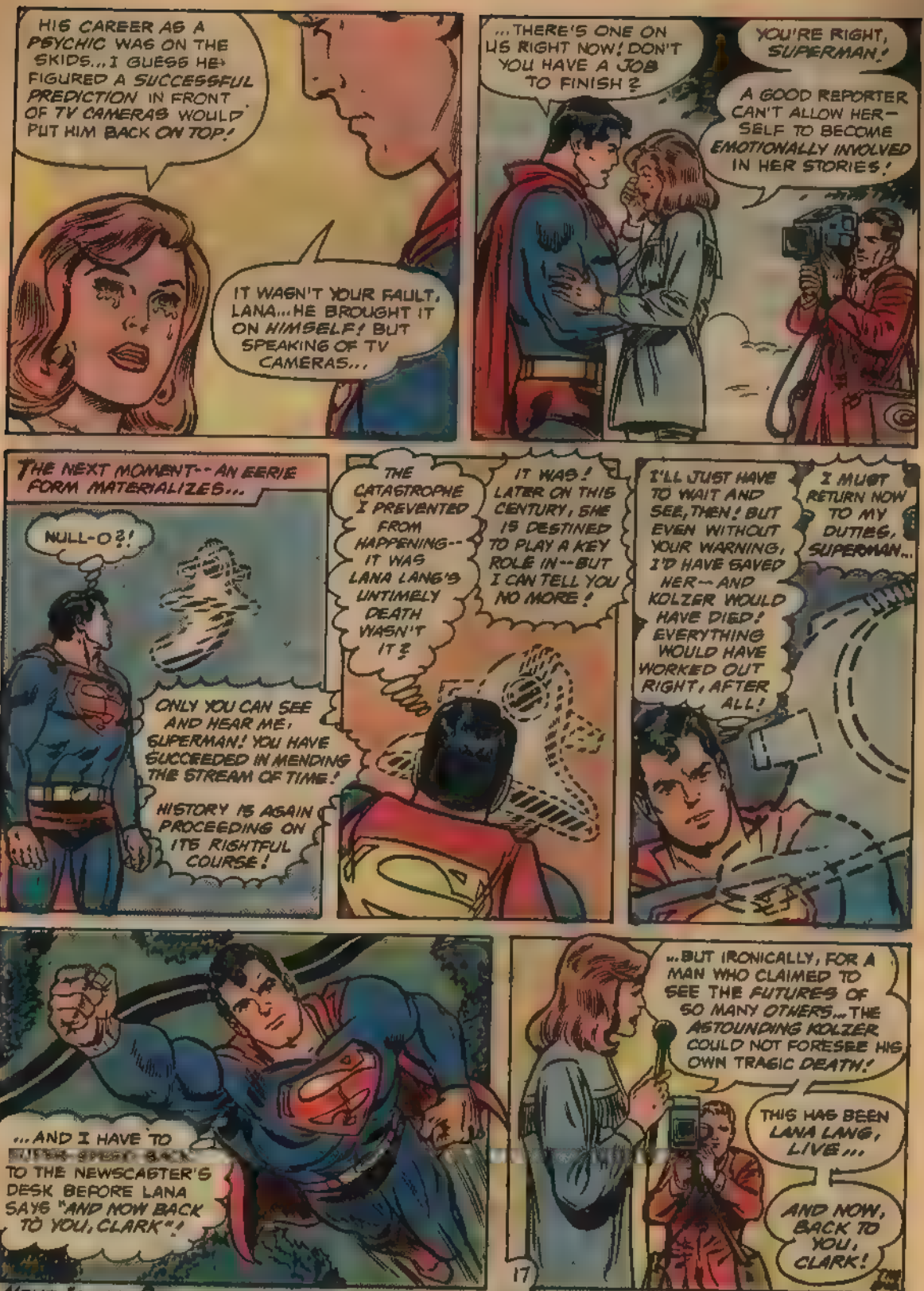

HIS CAREER AS A PSYCHIC WAS ON THE SKIDS... I GUESS HE FIGURED A SUCCESSFUL PREDICTION IN FRONT OF TV CAMERAS WOULD PUT HIM BACK ON TOP!
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT, LANA... HE BROUGHT IT ON HIMSELF! BUT SPEAKING OF TV CAMERAS...
...THERE'S ONE ON US RIGHT NOW! DON'T YOU HAVE A JOB TO FINISH?
YOU'RE RIGHT, SUPERMAN!
A GOOD REPORTER CAN'T ALLOW HERSELF TO BECOME EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED IN HER STORIES!
THE NEXT MOMENT--AN EERIE FORM MATERIALIZES...
NULL-O?!
ONLY YOU CAN SEE AND HEAR ME, SUPERMAN! YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MENDING THE STREAM OF TIME!
HISTORY IS AGAIN PROCEEDING ON ITS RIGHTFUL COURSE!
THE CATASTROPHE I PREVENTED FROM HAPPENING--IT WAS LANA LANG'S UNTIMELY DEATH WASN'T IT?
IT WAS! LATER ON THIS CENTURY, SHE IS DESTINED TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN--BUT I CAN TELL YOU NO MORE!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE, THEN! BUT EVEN WITHOUT YOUR WARNING, I'D HAVE SAVED HER--AND KOLZER WOULD HAVE DIED! EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE WORKED OUT RIGHT, AFTER ALL!
I MUST RETURN NOW TO MY DUTIES, SUPERMAN...
...AND I HAVE TO SUPER-SPEED BACK TO THE NEWSCASTER'S DESK BEFORE LANA SAYS "AND NOW BACK TO YOU, CLARK"!
...BUT IRONICALLY, FOR A MAN WHO CLAIMED TO SEE THE FUTURES OF SO MANY OTHERS... THE ASTOUNDING KOLZER COULD NOT FORESEE HIS OWN TRAGIC DEATH!
THIS HAS BEEN LANA LANG, LIVE...
AND NOW, BACK TO YOU, CLARK!

NEXT ISSUE: SUPPOSE YOU WERE MYSTERIOUSLY GRANTED FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS? WOULD YOU USE THEM TO BECOME A HERO? A VILLAIN? OR WHAT? LEARN ONE MAN'S ANSWER TO... "THE POWER AND THE CHOICE!" ON SALE DEC. 20! IT'S A DATE!

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor:

Considering the monumental events concurrently taking place in *SUPERMAN*, I'm afraid "The Catastrophic Man," in *ACTION* #498, will be overshadowed and overlooked by many fans. And that's too bad. This was one of Cary Bates' better efforts, another in an amazing string of well-written stories lately.

By annihilating Valeron and bringing Vartox to Earth, Cary set several interesting plotlines in motion. First, it has always seemed to me that *Superman* has had difficulty communicating comfortably with his friends because they simply do not share his super-powered existence. Even his fellow *JLA*ers lack near-omnipotent powers like Vartox's, which make him the perfect companion for the Man of Steel. This was obvious from the way they got along together. In the process, Cary showed us *Superman's* compassionate side as he helped Vartox adjust to his tragedy and get settled on Earth as Vern O'Valeron. From this came the other important story feature—the inspired coupling of Lana and Vartox. After her years of yearning for *Superman*, any normal man would be small potatoes to poor Lana. I think she sensed the same qualities in "Vern" that attracted her to *Superman*. And since she wasn't on an identity hunt or simply making a nuisance of herself, Vern had no trouble in seeing her good qualities, and fell in love with her.

Amidst all this were Cary's delightful touches of humor—Clark showing concern at this strange new pair and feigning fascination with a disguised Vartox performing a rescue as *Superman*.

Naturally, there had to be a fly in the ointment, as Clark would say in his clichéd way, as seen in Vartox's search for the solution to the mystery of Valeron's demise. That the story ended with a tragic discovery wasn't really so shocking, since we can assume Earth won't meet the same fate as Valeron. The real suspense lay in Cary's plans for Vartox once this dilemma is solved. I hope Vernon O'Valeron is still around after next issue's conclusion, and that his relationship with Lana goes somewhere.

Tony Edwards
454 N. Formosa Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

As this is written, we've already received our first angry letter complaining about the departure of Vartox in #499. Perhaps we can put the problem in better perspective with one of the few negative letters on #498.—ENB

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I can't believe it! Cary Bates destroyed an entire world, and from start to finish, it took only one page! Not only is this incredibly callous (even for fictional characters), but it's dramatically questionable. Surely those on Valeron deserved better treatment than that.

But the main problem with the story had to do with the effect on Vartox (that Sean Connery look-alike with the Zardoz-type costume). Part of *Superman's* appeal has been that he's the main (not the sole, but the most important and the "original") survivor of a destroyed world, one who grew to maturity there *and who caused* that world's destruction. Perhaps Cary will wriggle out of it next issue (he's certainly capable of it), but if he doesn't, he's compromised *Superman's* uniqueness.

"The Mad Maple"
Toronto, Ontario

Really? But the very fact that he did not grow up on his native world is what makes **Superman** *unique. Even* **Supergirl** *came to Earth as a teen-ager. And we've had other sole survivors. For instance, in* **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES, Element Lad** *is the only survivor of his race. And the* **Legion's** *foe Mano (of the Fatal Five) deliberately wiped out his planet and everyone on it! But if we'd kept Vartox on Earth, it might have cut* **Superman** *down to size somewhat.—ENB*

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I suspect Cary Bates will be collecting compliments from all over for #498. And with good reason! "The Catastrophic Man" was a good example of how a writer fresh out of new ways to deal with old material simply forces himself to generate brilliant *new* material. I cannot find a flaw in it, Cary! I loved it unequivocally!

For starters—I knew you guys had something special in mind for Lana, but this is beautiful! What a perfect match for her! Lana is so easily bored by rich playboys, fabulously wealthy execs, even brilliant people in her own field. She has always compared them to *Superman*, I assume, and found them wanting. She *needs* that super-charge that comes from being with someone larger than life, both physically and mentally superior. *Superman* wasn't far off when he said Lana is after the glitter of a super-hero, living in the spotlight, being important.

Vartox is possessed of similar super-powers to *Superman's*, plus a tremendous masculine aura. I mean, the man positively oozes with macho. But he, like *Superman*, is capable of genuine feelings, even love. Here is a man with all the attributes which attracted Lana to *Superman*, and *he's* heavily interested in *her*. I'm amazed at how quickly—even *I* was convinced Lana's deeper feelings were engaged. I don't believe this is a superficial attraction for either of them. Previously, I would've sworn up and down Lana wasn't any more capable of real love than flying. But Bates managed to grab even *my* sympathy.

Vartox left his world after it was destroyed while he watched helplessly. This probably gives him the same emotional vulnerability as *Superman*. By which I mean, once Vartox falls in love with Lana, there'll be no turning back. He'll either sacrifice that love by leaving without explanation, or perhaps he'll find a way to serve Earth (or some new planet) and offer Lana the opportunity to choose.

At any rate, I would really like to see more of Vartox and his developing relationship with Lana. I know *Superman* will come through to save Earth anyway, but I hope it's not at Vartox's expense.

Tamsyn O'Flynn
29 Fourth Ave.
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

We'll find out how right or wrong you are when Vartox returns (assuming he does). There are two old sayings: "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" and "Out of sight, out of mind." Which one applies will tell us whether this attraction is real love.—E. Nelson Bridwell

THE DC FEATURE PAGE

F-116

Q: Where did the sons of *Superman* and *Batman* first appear?—Mark Squire. **A:** In *WORLD'S FINEST* #154.

Q: Did the *Star Spangled Kid* have a partner?—Charles Baker. **A:** Yes, his name was *Stripesy*.

Q: Can *Superman* be affected by kryptonite if he's under a red sun?—Leroy Mitchum. **A:** No.

Q: How much is *DALE EVANS* #6 worth?—Dana DeLong. **A:** This 1949 *DC* western title catalogs at $3 in good condition.

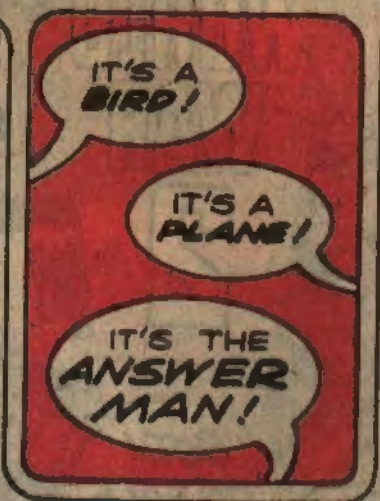
Q: Do Central City, Star City, Midway City, Ivy Town or Metropolis really exist?—Ricardo Anderson. **A:** Not on our Earth.

Q: I found *ACTION COMICS* #'s 1-18 among my father's old comics. How much are they worth?—Jeffrey Fern. **A:** That treasure trove, the kind every comics fan dreams of finding, would get you $6,000, depending on condition, and perhaps as much as $18,000!

Q: What is Dick Grayson's relation to Bruce Wayne?—Debbie France. **A:** Bruce is Dick's guardian.

Q: Why don't you get rid of *Kid Flash*?—Eugene Tan. **A:** Wally (*Kid Flash*) West has already decided to retire from super-speeding once he graduates from college.

Q: How can I get a copy of *CANCELLED COMICS CAVALCADE*?—David A. Lofvers. **A:** Unless you can find a *DC* staffer or free-lancer who is willing to sell his copy, you can't. (For the uninformed, *CCC* was a limited-publication—35 copies—which included such stories as *VIXEN* #1, *FIRESTORM* #8, *SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS* #'s 16 and 17, *BLACK LIGHTNING* #12, *SHADE* #9, and *CLAW* #'s 13 and 14. There were two volumes and it was distributed only to *DC* staffers and freelancers who had material printed therein.)



Q: How many issues of *SHOWCASE* were there?—Mad Maple. **A:** 104.

Q: What is the name of the rays from a yellow sun which give *Superman* his powers?—Daniel T. Sandefur. **A:** Yellow sun rays.

Q: How many issues of *FIRESTORM* appeared?—Peter Shevenell. **A:** Five.

Q: How much do you get paid to be the Answer Man?—Tommy Newton. **A:** All the comics I can eat!

Q: How did *Batman* get all that stuff in his utility belt?—Andrew Baldwin. **A:** He made it all and put it there.

Q: How come all the comic conventions are in New York City?—John Gerdes. **A:** Are you kidding? There are comicons all over the country, practically every week of the year. Check your local newspaper or *THE BUYER'S GUIDE FOR COMICS FANDOM* for details on one near you.

Q: How did *Supergirl* escape the destruction of Argo City?—Adam Sender. **A:** Her parents sent her to Earth in a rocket.

Q: Did *Black Manta* originate on the Saturday morning cartoons?—Bernard Cavaliere. **A:** No, he has been a foe of *Aquaman* for a number of years.

Q: Who is *The Atom* of Earth-2?—Lamont Samuel. **A:** Al Pratt.

Q: Could you print the home addresses of some of your writers and artists so we can write them directly?—Larry Barrett. **A:** No, but if you write to them care of our offices, we'll forward your letters.

DC PUZZLE

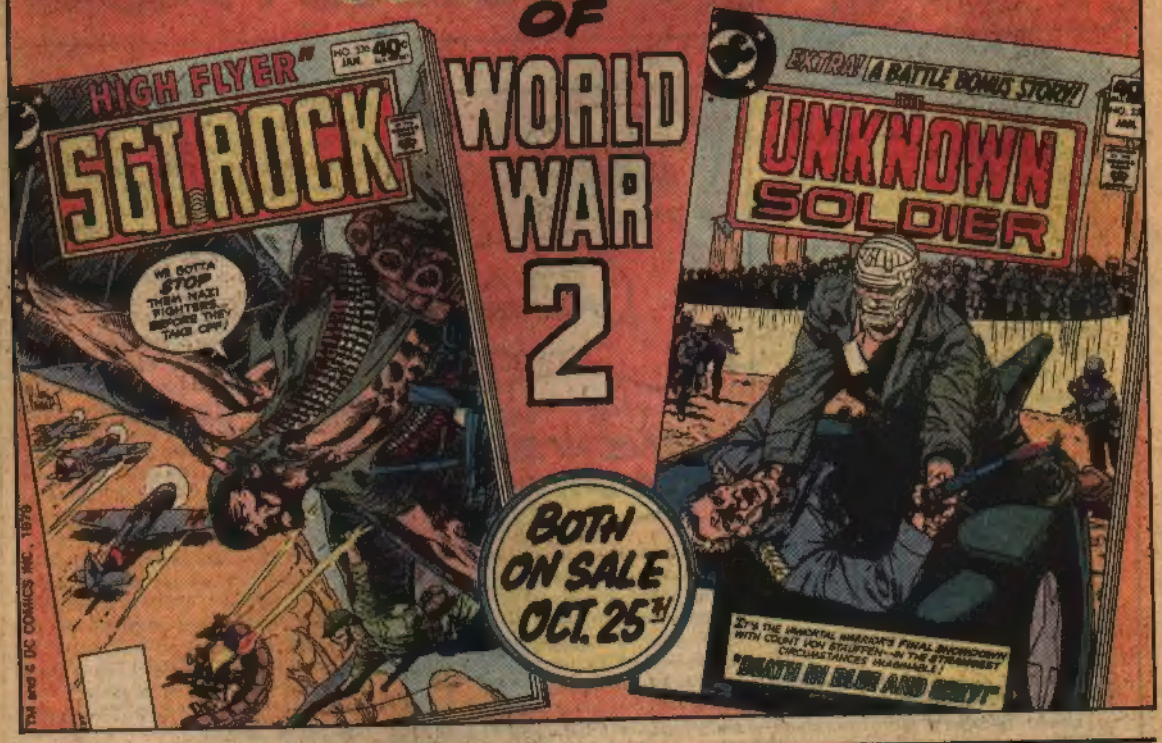
by bob rozakis

Here's another word-find puzzle, this one devoted to the DC super-stars who have had features in *ADVENTURE COMICS*. Can you find all 34 that are hidden vertically, horizontally and diagonally in the grid?

L E G I O N O F S U P E R H E R O E S
R K Q W A S J M H W S P E C T R E V U
I N K O N R B S I O T D O C T O R I P
G E C N N E M O N R A E F T P A C G E
R M I D A I E R I R R A H S A L F I R
E L U E T D R R N A M D N A S L Y L B
P A Q R A L A A G N A M L A M I N A O
U R Y W Z O Q Z K E N A J D R R A N Y
S E N O J S U I N E G N X I J O M T R
A D N M S 7 A B I R J V I H O G R E A
T E H A A V M F G G O A B C N N U Q N
O F O N W M A N H U N T E R Z O O Y A
M V J M I D N I T E N K Y O Z C H B C

ANIMAL MAN
~~AQUAMAN~~
ATOM
BIZARRO
(BLACK) CANARY
(BLACK) ORCHID
CAPT. FEAR
CONGORILLA
~~DEADMAN~~
~~DOCTOR (1-2)~~
(DR) MID-NITE
FEDERAL MEN
~~FLASH~~
GENIUS JONES
GREEN ARROW
HOURMAN
JOHNNY QUICK
J'ONN (J'ONZZ)
(J'ONN) J'ONZZ
JSA
~~LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES~~
~~MANHUNTER~~
MERA
NADIR
SANDMAN
~~7 SOLDIERS~~
SHINING KNIGHT
~~SPECTRE~~
STARMAN
SUPERBOY
~~SUPERGIRL~~
VIGILANTE
WONDER WOMAN
~~ZATANNA~~

FROM THE BLAZING BATTLEFIELDS OF WORLD WAR 2


HIGH FLYER"
SGT ROCK
WE GOTTA STOP THEM NAZI FIGHTERS BEFORE THEY TAKE OFF!
EXTRA! A BATTLE BONDS STORY!
THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER
"DEATH IN SLOW AND SLOW!"
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